Macapagal gets flak for surprise TV appearance

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e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Thursday, March 7, 2002 ★ 40 pages / 4 sections / vol.17 / no. 89 P15
website: www.inq7.net

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Across the Nation.

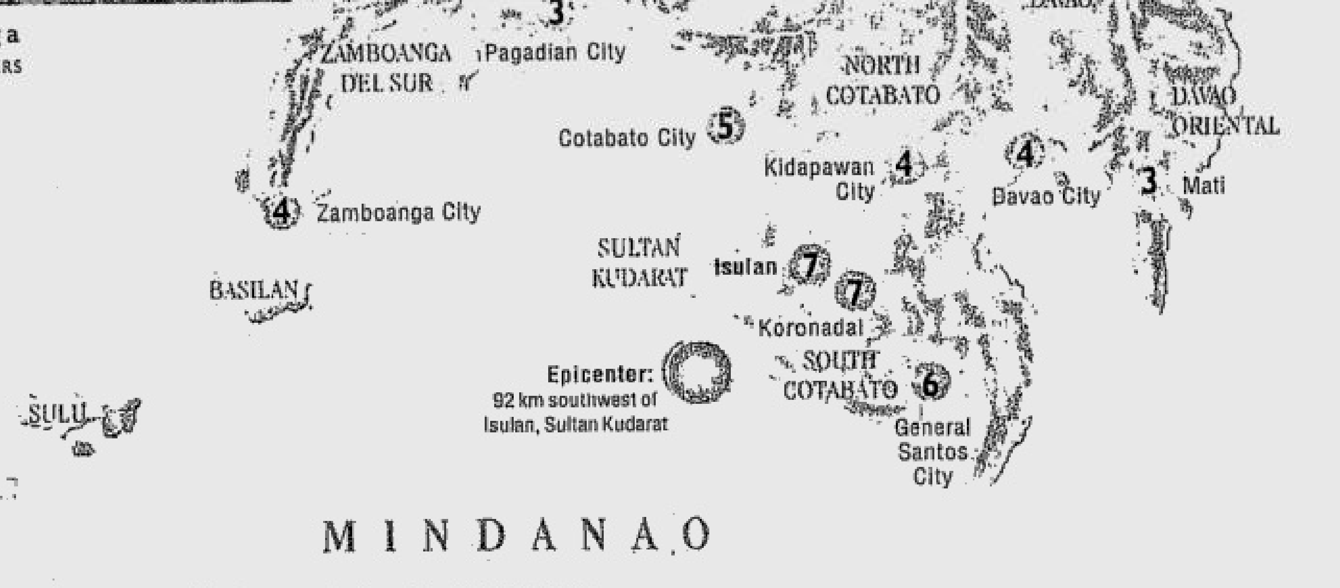
EARTHQUAKE

12 dead; most powerful in South since '76

AN ELDERLY man sits in front of a collapsed concrete wall in General Santos City following a strong earthquake that rocked Mindanao early Wednesday morning. REUTERS

AT A GLANCE

- Lake Maughan's walls cave in
- Three-foot tsunami hits Kiamba in Sarangani
- Two old churches in Tupi town collapse
- Power outage in General Santos, Davao and Cotabato
- Moro gunmen fire in the air to ward off 'evil spirits'



*Numbers next to places refer to earthquake Intensity

INQUIRERGRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO / L.A.VILLARIBA

By Aquiles Z. Zonio, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The sea receded 100 meters from the coastline of two towns in Sarangani while the walls of Lake Maughan, Mt. Parker's caldera, in South Cotabato, caved in, releasing tons of water that washed away houses.

In Tupi town, also in South Cotabato, two churches collapsed.

These were among the effects of an earthquake that hit Mindanao at 5:16 a.m. yesterday, rousing people from their sleep and causing them to rush out onto the streets.

At least 12 people were reported killed.

The quake knocked out electric power in the cities of General Santos, Davao and Cotabato, as well as outlying towns, the civil defense office said. Electricity was restored later in some towns but much of General Santos was still without power by mid-afternoon.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the epicenter was located at the Cotabato Trench in the Celebes Sea, 96 km southwest of Isulan town in Sultan Kudarat.

Raymundo Punongbayan, Phivolcs

EARTHQUAKE/A15

Basilan mayor gives Abu Sayyaf tit-for-tat

ISABELA, Basilan—A town mayor on this lawless island yesterday said his armed followers had abducted wives and relatives of known Abu Sayyaf bandits from their homes and offered to swap them for one of their hostages.

Mayor Sakib Salajin of Maluso town told reporters that four wives and four male relatives of the Abu Sayyaf bandits were now in the custody of his bodyguards.

"We are taking one by one the wives and relatives of the Abu Sayyaf rebels and at present we already have eight," Salajin said.

"We kidnapped them so we'll have some bargaining power. If we don't kidnap them, the rebels will only become stronger," he added.

Asked if he was not risking criminal charges, Salajin said: "They (government) can't even charge the Abu Sayyaf, so how can they charge us?"

Aides to Salajin said the mayor ordered the tit-for-tat to force the Abu Sayyaf to free Ediborah Yap, a Filipino nurse the bandits seized in a raid on the Lamitan hospital last year.

Apart from Yap, the bandits are also holding captive US Christian missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham in the Basilan jungle.

Maj. Noel Detoyato, Southern Command spokesperson, condemned the mayor's seizure of the eight relatives of the bandits.

"We will tell them this is not right," Detoyato said. "We cannot correct a wrong thing by another wrong thing."

He said he hadn't spoken to Salajin to confirm the incident and didn't mention any possible legal action against him.

BASILAN/A14

Peace talks with Moro rebs shelved for now

PEACE talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have been temporarily suspended amid accusations the rebels violated a ceasefire agreement by instigating deadly attacks in the past two weeks, officials yesterday said.

"Right now, there are charges and counter-charges of violations of the ceasefire. I say let us work these things out before we talk about the full agenda when we go to Malaysia (for the formal peace talks)," Eduardo Ermita, chief government peace negotiator, said.

The next stage of the formal peace

PEACE/A15

Pro-GMA solons back resolution for Erap exile

By Juliet L. Javellana

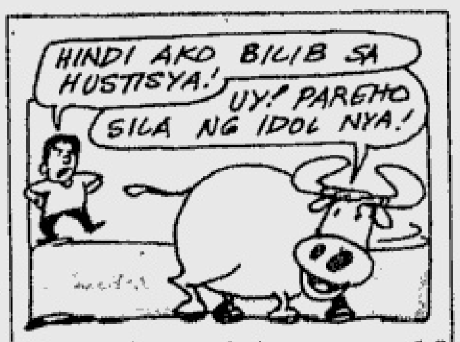
SEVERAL pro-administration congressmen are behind a resolution asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to send her ousted predecessor, Joseph Estrada, into exile.

As of yesterday, all but one of the nine authors of the controversial resolution belonged to the ruling coalition in the House of Representatives.

But Speaker Jose de Venecia said the resolution would first be heard in the justice committee before it could be decided whether to have a "conscience vote, a party vote or a coalition vote."

"This is a complex issue that I don't

PRO-GMA/A14


HINDI AKO BILIB SA HUSTISYA!
UY! PAREHO SILA NG IDOL NYA!

Lumbao likens self to his idol Erap

By TJ Burgonio

AS though playing mouse to the cat, the fugitive leader of the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) yesterday came out on radio—his first such interview after months of lying low.

Ronald Lumbao likened

LUMBAO/A14

Erap gets 'better lawyers than (his) former counsel'

By Volt Contreras

THREE more private lawyers, two of whom took part in the formal investigation of the 1983 assassination of Benigno Aquino Jr., were yesterday named additional de officio counsel for Joseph Estrada.

The Sandiganbayan issued a resolution assigning the ousted President's four criminal cases to Rodolfo Jimenez, Mario Ongkiko and Irene Jurado.

Asked for comment, State Prosecutor Alexander Padilla said that "when it comes to trial and procedure," the newly named defense team comprised "better lawyers than the former counsel of Estrada."

"They are good trial practitioners," he added.

But Raymond Fortun said he was "almost 100-percent sure" that Estrada would have nothing to do with them.

Fortun, a member of Estrada's dismissed defense panel and now serving as his spokesperson, said, "the new court-appointed lawyers can expect a rejection letter shortly."

Yesterday's resolution raised the number of Estrada's de officio lawyers to seven, including four from the Public Attorneys Office (PAO) whom the anti-graft court named Friday.

Jimenez and Ongkiko both saw action in the hearings on the Aquino assassination conducted by the Fact-Finding Board chaired by Justice Corazon Agrava. Ongkiko served as one of three deputies of the board's general counsel,

ERAP/A14

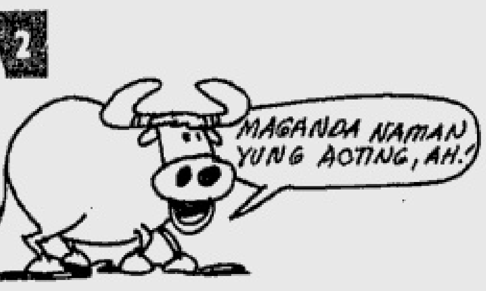
Batangas domino champion is blind

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BATANGAS CITY—Andro Ilao is no ordinary person with a disability.

He is a musician, singer, composer, physical therapist, reflexologist and electronics technician. And recently, he won a provincial domino tournament sponsored by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

BATANGAS/A14


MAGANDA NAMAN YUNG ACTING, AH.!

Gloria gets flak for TV 'acting'

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's "emotional" television message on Monday drew the harshest comments from her usual critics, mostly opposition legislators and militant organizations.

The "Ina ng Bayan" message, shown on government channels and said to have been produced by her controversial publicist Dante Ang without the knowledge of her official spokespersons, portrayed the usually stern President as meekly asking for the people's support.

She was variously attacked as "insincere," "trying hard," "acting," "second-rate-copycat" and indulging in a "cheap publicity stunt" and a "gimmick."

Yesterday, the President defended her "emotional" TV message, saying she was worried that people did not feel the fruits of her work.

"I have spoken to many regular folks; they said congratulations. I think it's better to ask for support than not ask for support," she told Palace reporters over lunch yesterday.

TV plug

She said the television plug was part of her new focus to make sure that macro-level reforms were felt by the people.

"To make these programs successful at the ground level, I need the support of our people," she said.

"I have to spend my time now making sure it is felt below. That's where I should put my attention now."

She denied that she merely wanted to counter jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada's moves to appeal for public sympathy.

She said Estrada was no longer a "priority" for her.

She tried to make light of the observation that she appears to be changing her tough image.

"Didn't I say in my New Year's resolution that I will be less *mataray* (snooty)? So if at first you don't succeed, try and try again," she joked.

She explained she wore a denim blouse in the broadcast because she was asked to wear a blue shirt.

"Don't you notice I always wear white when I go out? And then the director said it's not nice on TV. So I asked what do I wear and she said, blue. So I went to my closet and got a blue shirt," she said.

'Very insincere'

Sen. Loi Ejercito, wife of Ms Macapagal's jailed predecessor, accused Ms Macapagal of being "very insincere."

MACAPAGAL

"She is known to be very *mataray* (snooty) and then she starts begging. It's so obvious that it's not sincere," Ejercito said in Filipino.

Senators Edgardo Angara and Vicente Sotto III said they did not see any sincerity in what they referred to as the President's "acting."

Sen. John Osmeña said he sympathized with the President "100 percent," as the job of President was not easy.

"That is why we are going after people who are making life hard for her like Finance Secretary (Isidro) Camacho," he said.

But Osmeña and Sen. Tessie Oreta had other fish to fry.

Osmeña blamed Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and civil society as responsible for the country's woes.

"This evil society does nothing but criticize but when their criticisms are returned President Macapagal-Arroyo becomes the target so they should just keep quiet," Osmeña said in Filipino.

Oreta vented her ire on presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao whom she called the "commander of an Erap-bashing brigade' in Malacañang.

Sycophants

She said the President's appeal for unity would go nowhere if she continues to surround herself with "sycophants" like Tiglao.

The President fared better in the House, where some legislators even expressed sympathy for her. Others criticized her for falling into the game being played by her predecessor.

Leyte Rep. Ted Failon and Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said they had not seen Ms Macapagal's televised message but were sympathetic to her appeal.

"Anybody who calls for unity at this point has my sympathy because we really need to unite now," Marcos said.

Failon, a former radio and television personality, said that Ms Macapagal was just being "human" and "expressing her emotions of frustrations."

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said what the President did was "beneath" her and "unbecoming" a President.

The commercial "portrays her as a weakened and scared President," he said.

The President should not allow herself to be carried away by ousted ex-President Estrada's "drama" of attempting to take his court case to the people, he said.

"She fell into the trap of Estrada," Ocampo said.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno said the President "should play her game and not Erap's game."

The House minority took President Macapagal's televised appeal as another opportunity to raise the issue of the political stability and legitimacy of her 14-month-old administration.

"Her appeal shows that she is standing on shaky ground... because why will you have to do that?" Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla said.

Ill-advised

Remulla, a former television reporter, said that President Macapagal's TV appearance was "unnecessary and ill-advised."

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, who has not seen the TV message, the President "may be reaching out but Estrada's supporters do not believe she is the legitimate President despite the Supreme Court decision."

Militant groups ridiculed the President's attempt to win over the hearts and minds of the masses through the commercial. ***Reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Cynthia D. Balana, Christine Avendaño, and Gerald Lacuarta***

CABRERA

TIGLAO

Tiglao is press chief next month

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENTIAL spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao will be the concurrent press secretary beginning next month.

Outgoing Press Secretary Noel Cabrera, in the meantime, will assume a temporary corporate post until his appointment as ambassador to Romania comes through in June at the earliest.

President Macapagal-Arroyo thus ended yesterday speculation on Cabrera's fate when she announced Tiglao's appointment.

Cabrera was given four "options" by the President after he had pleaded "job burnout" as his reason for wanting to leave Malacañang. These were as envoy to Romania, chair of Cocolife, government representative to San Miguel Corp.'s Hong Kong office, and veterans' rights lobbyist at the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC.

Facing reporters in the afternoon, a smiling Cabrera said he had accepted the post of chair and chief executive officer of Cocolife, a subsidiary of the government-controlled United Coconut Planters Bank.

But, he said, he had told the President he still preferred the Romania posting. "I am inclined to really accept that, except that it would take time. We agreed she could probably nominate me and if things worked out and the appointment passed in the Commission on Appointments, I might take that post," Cabrera said.

Relieved

"I'm just relieved that a decision has been made," the usually taciturn Cabrera added, smiling some more.

Both men appeared to have been taken by surprise by the quick turn of events, however.

While the President was making the announcement, Tiglao was insisting in a radio interview that Cabrera will remain at his present post a few months more.

Tiglao also denied that he had lobbied to get Cabrera's job.

Ms Macapagal said she will let Tiglao "define" his new job.

Cabrera, who has been with the press office in various top positions under three Presidents, said the foreign service had always appealed to him.

The former newspaper editor was taking up foreign service in college before shifting to journalism.

Cabrera said he will stay until the end of the month "for a smooth transition." ***With Rocky Nazareno***

Erap making my job difficult—GMA

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday blamed her ousted predecessor, jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, for making her job more difficult because of his desire to return to power.

She lamented that while she was doing everything right in the macro-economic field—a feat recognized by international investment rating agencies—she was not given any respite by "destabilizing forces."

"As it is, it is difficult to run a country, especially if the entire world is ailing and terrorism persists. More so if there is someone who wants to return to power or grab power," the President said in Filipino during a lengthy interview with Bombo Radyo.

She did not actually mention Estrada.

She said this was the reason why there were people conducting "black propaganda and always looking for opportunities to destabilize and spoil."

She also brought up an old complaint that while her government was delivering on its pro-poor programs, there were those who continued to claim that these were not being felt by the people.

"And then this is worsened by destabilizing forces," Ms Macapagal said.

The President spoke on national television on Monday night to appeal for understanding and support for her administration amid reports that Estrada's supporters were agitating and preparing to launch street protests in aid of their fallen idol.

Her television appearance was criticized by her opponents as a cheap publicity stunt.

Her personal publicist, Dante Ang, yesterday defended the televised message, which he is supposed to have conceptualized.

"It's only right for the President to appeal because when shall she do it, when it is already too late?" Ang said in a separate interview over dzMM.

But Ang did not explain in what sense it would be too late to make an appeal for support.

"What I know is that we should not talk about her intention," Ang said. "Let's just look at the message."

He said Ms Macapagal has been the subject of black propaganda and she was only "opening her heart out" to the people.

"The bottom line is that we must be united in order for the country to progress," Ang said.

No combat role for GIs, US Congress assured

WASHINGTON—The commander of the United States' Pacific forces assured Congress on Tuesday that there would be no combat role for US troops training Philippine soldiers in counter-terrorism.

Navy Adm. Dennis Blair, commander in chief of the US Pacific Command, said Philippine leaders "recognize that this is their fight. They only want assistance, not replacements."

Some 600 US troops, including 160 from special forces, are training Philippine forces fighting the extremist Abu Sayyaf group in Basilan. The group allegedly has ties with the al-Qaida terrorist network of Osama bin Laden.

Blair, in testimony before the US Senate's armed services committee, pointed to the experience in Vietnam and US troops would avoid "starting out as advisers and then creeping into missions much greater than we originally anticipated."

He said special forces would not be sent out on patrols and "we will not be doing the fighting for them."

He said that while some civil engineering projects and training programs could extend beyond six months, his command intends to abide by that time limit.

The committee chair, Sen. Carl Levin, said he was "concerned that our operation in the Philippines could unintentionally expand beyond training the Philippine Army to fighting the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group."

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called for stronger international intelligence cooperation to nip terrorist cells in the bud.

Convening a national intelligence summit in Manila, Ms Macapagal also asked her intelligence chiefs from the police, military, justice and the national security agency to "unlearn turf mentality" and share vital information to combat terrorism.

At the same time, she stressed the Philippines should also move to increase security cooperation with its Southeast Asian neighbors amid the recent discoveries of terrorist cells in the region linked to Bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

"The international dimension of intelligence must be given utmost weight," the President said. ***AP and AFP***

Cebu NPA leader falls

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—An alleged leader of the New People's Army in Cebu was arrested by joint elements of the Philippine Army Central Command (Cencom) and the Philippine National Police Tuesday evening.

Eduardo C. Sacamay, 46, alias "Ka Brando," reported head of the NPA Front 2 Command operating in Cebu's mid-north area, was arrested at around 7:30 p.m. on Gothong Street, Mandaue City, a few meters from his house.

Five other NPA rebels, including two women, surrendered to the army in southern Sarangani province on Monday, the military reported, according to the Agence France Presse.

The five had told the military they wanted to come under the government's amnesty program, the report said.

Sacamay's wife, Angelina, said her husband was not a rebel and authorities have mistaken him for someone else. She said her husband's name is Edgardo Sacamay and his nickname is Danding.

But Cencom commander Maj. Gen. Dionisio Santiago and Cencom spokesperson Lt. Col. Michael Manquiquis insisted they arrested the right person.

Santiago, in a press conference yesterday where Sacamay was presented to the media, said the latter admitted his involvement in the revolutionary movement after his arrest.

Manquiquis said Sacamay admitted being the secretary of the Central Visayas Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA, which covers the city of Danao and the towns of Sogod, Carmen, Catmon, Compostela, Borbon, Tabuelan, Asturias, Tuburan and Balamban in Cebu.

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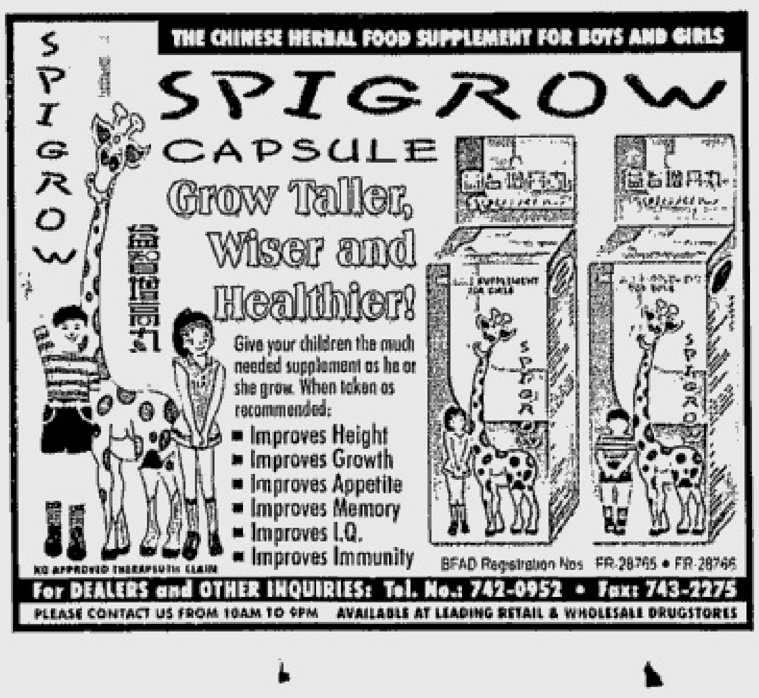
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House OKs bill to reset youth, barangay polls

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE HOUSE of Representatives approved last night the bill postponing and synchronizing the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on the second Monday (11th) of November this year.

House Bill 4456, the "Synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections Act of 2002," was approved on second reading by voice vote after just two nights of plenary debates.

It provides that the SK and barangay elections shall be held on the second Monday of November this year and every three years thereafter.

The SK and barangay elections are scheduled for May 6 and 13 this year, respectively.

Rep. Emilio Macias II and Rep. Augusto Syjuco Jr., principal sponsors of the measure, expressed optimism the House version would be accepted by the Senate at the conference committee.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said the House and Senate could immediately go into conference to reconcile the two versions so that the final bill could be submitted for ratification by Congress and signing into law by the President.

Macias, chair of the House local governments committee, said the bill limited the term of office of barangay and SK officials to three consecutive terms of three years each.

It thus seeks to repeal the provision in Republic Act 8524, the Local Government Code, which extended the term of office of barangay officials from three to five years.

The bill provides that no barangay official shall serve for more than three consecutive terms.

Akbayan Partylist Rep. Etta Rosales proposed to change the term from three years to five and then four which was voted down by the plenary last night.

The House version also seeks to reckon the three consecutive term limit from the barangay elections in 1994.

Macias explained that some barangay officials have served two consecutive terms after the elections in 1994 and 1997 and their second term was extended from three years to five years or up to this year.

SK officials, on the other hand, had elections in 1992 and 1996. Most of the incumbent SKs are older than the 15-21 age provided for in law.

Villar hits agri execs for snub of hearing

By C. Balana

SENATE President Pro Tempore Manny Villar yesterday lost his cool and slammed agriculture officials for snubbing his committee's public hearing on a bill on bio-organic farming.

Condemning the "mediocre attitude" of agriculture officials, Villar said they were doing a country a disservice since they were not cooperating in the passage of a proposed law that would help uplift the agriculture sector.

"We are talking here about a bill which has the end objective of increasing our farm productivity and our agriculture officials decide to ignore the hearing," Villar said.

"This kind of attitude is unacceptable. If we have to subpoena these officials, we will do it to compel them to attend these hearings," he added.

Villar, chair of the Senate committee on food and agriculture, was apparently peeved at the absence of Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and other department officials.

The committee was hearing a bill which aims to promote the use of natural farm inputs to reduce the adverse impact of chemicals that damages the environment and which may pose a risk to farmers and consumers.

It also seeks to accelerate bio-organic farming activities in the country by putting in place a program that will carry out enabling policies.

According to Villar, the continued use of chemical or inorganic fertilizer, pesticides, weedicides and other farm inputs has caused environmental degradation and pollution.

This, in turn, leads to the destruction of aquatic life in freshwater and has been detrimental to human health.

It has also decreased soil productivity, thus decreasing agricultural production.

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See Flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0446 series of 2002

Farmers warn of new rice crisis

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

FARMERS' groups yesterday warned of an impending rice crisis if the government pushes through with a new policy privatizing rice importations and dismantling the National Food Authority.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said that with the government's lack of priority in giving and increasing subsidy for rice production and the threat of the coming El Niño, the country will experience a rice crisis in the lean months starting July. It will be worse than that experienced in 1995, KMP said.

"The entire nation and its 75.6 million population will be driven into hunger," said Rafael Mariano, chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

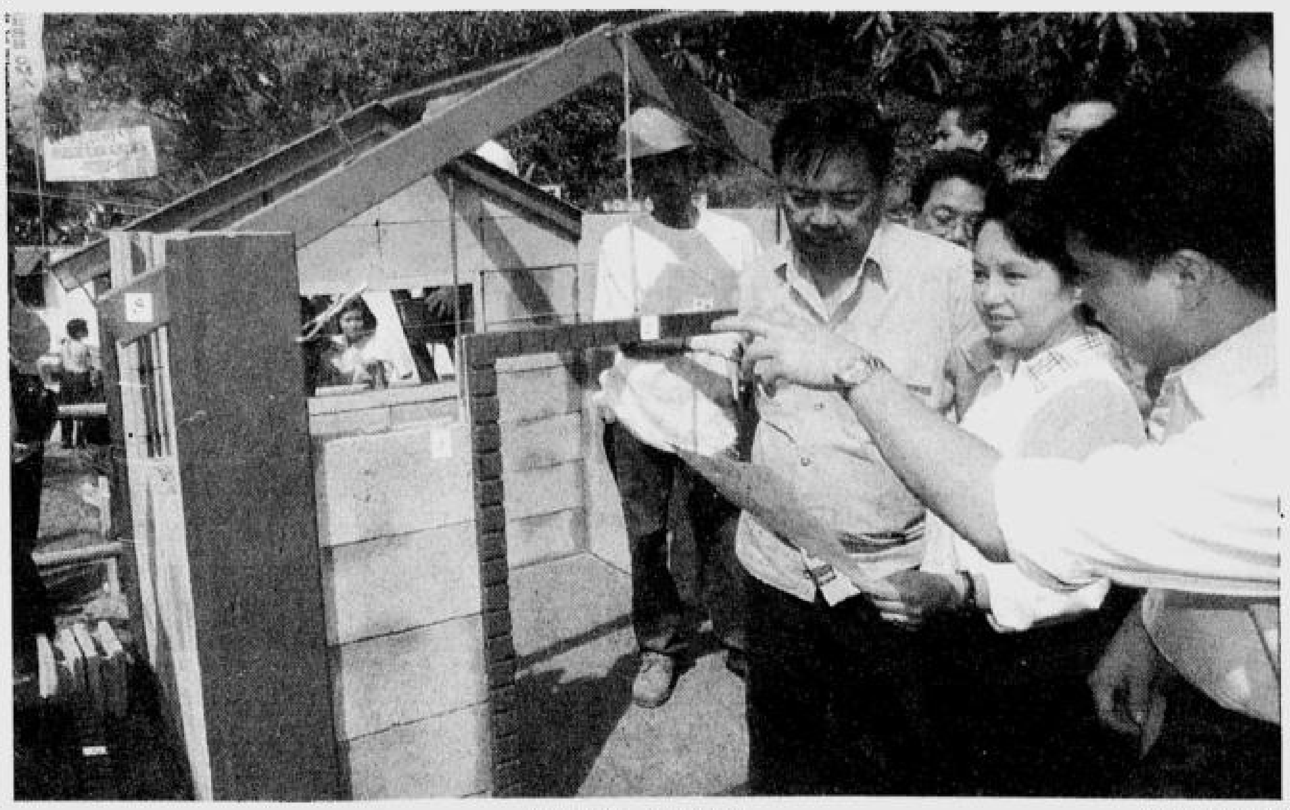
Mariano said the government's privatization thrust has tied our food requirements to imports and to the volatility of the world market.

"Privatizing rice importation, lifting quantitative restrictions for such and removing government intervention through the NFA will result in the flooding of imported rice which in turn will result in the skyrocketting of rice prices as private traders can easily manipulate and dictate the price," Mariano said.

"It will kill our local rice industry and local rice farmers," he warned.

The KMP expressed strong opposition to House Bill 3339 which provides for the lifting of tariffs in imported rice in lieu of quantitative restrictions and the privatization of the NFA which Mariano said render hundreds jobless in the rice industry allied services.

"We need two things: one, is a sound policy that will ensure genuine food security through a food self-sufficiency policy. This can be achieved through the strengthening of local rice production, ensuring low production costs for rice production and ensuring high yield and fair prices for a just net income for farmers," Mariano said.



MODEL HOUSE EDWIN BACASMAS

Housing chair Michael Defensor points to a miniature model as he and Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez explain to President Macapagal-Arroyo the innovative Pueblocillo building system in the construction of 5,000 housing units during yesterday's inauguration of the Garden Cottages housing project in Tanay, Rizal. Behind them, partly hidden, is Mike Molina, chair of the project developer Blue Star Construction.

Desierto wants video of Erap trial shown

By Norman Bordadora

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto said yesterday he will ask the Supreme Court to allow the airing of the five hearings already conducted by the newly created Sandiganbayan special division to let the public judge for itself if former President Joseph Estrada is getting a fair trial or not.

"We will ask the Supreme Court to order the broadcasting of the hearings of the plunder case against Estrada by the Sandiganbayan's special division," Desierto said.

"This would show (if) the court is impartial in dealing with the former president," he added.

The Sandiganbayan created a special division to hear the plunder and other cases against Estrada, his son Jinggoy, lawyer Edward Serapio, and others in order to speed up the trial and at the same time create a court whose justices could devote more of their time to the hearings. This after several justices originally hearing the Estrada cases came up for retirement and a forced leave.

Estrada then claimed creation of the special division was an example of how the Supreme Court was conniving with the Macapagal administration to make sure he is convicted of the charges against him.

"We are also set to file a motion before the Sandiganbayan reminding the court of the limitations it had earlier imposed on interviews by the accused," Desierto said.

The Ombudsman said interviews given by Estrada should not contain issues that are either sub judice or contemptuous of the Sandiganbayan.

PNP retirees back Mendoza extension

RETIREES of the Philippine National Police have expressed their support for the extension of the term of PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza,

In a resolution, the 10,000 strong PNP Retirees Association Inc. (PRAI) hailed the decision of President Macapagal-Arroyo to extend Mendoza's term.

Mendoza was due to retire March 17 upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56 but Ms Macapagal had ordered his extension up to December. On Tuesday, the President reduced the extension to six months, up to September.

The police retirees and pensioners pointed said Mendoza had shown "exceptional leadership and achievement by uniting members of the PNP to become more effective in the accomplishment of its functions."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, March 7, 2002
3rd Week of Lent

1st Reading: **Jer 7:23-28**
Gospel: **Lk 11:14-23**

One day Jesus was driving out a dumb demon. When the demon had been driven out, the mute person could speak, and the people were amazed. Yet some of them said, "He drives out demons by the power of Beelzebul, the chief of the demons." So others wanted to put him to the test by asking him for a heavenly sign.

But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every nation divided by civil war is on the road to ruin, and will fall. If Satan also is divided, his empire is coming to an end. How can you say that I drive out demons by calling upon Beelzebul? If I drive them out by Beelzebul, by whom do your fellow members drive out demons? They themselves will give you the answer.

But suppose I drive out demons by the finger of God; would not this mean that the kingdom of God has come upon you? As long as the strong and armed man guards his house, his goods are safe. But when a stronger one attacks and overcomes him, the challenger takes away all the weapons he relied on and disposes of his spoils.

Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me, scatters."

Commentary

A closed mind and heart dis-empowers God. Jeremiah puts it well: "You may say all this but they will not listen; you will call them but they will not answer... This is a nation that did not obey Yahweh nor take correction; all truth has perished and is gone from their lips." It's far too inconvenient to recognize that God is at work in the actions of Jesus. One might have to actually start listening to him if that were the case! It's always possible to avoid what we don't want to see or do. But Jesus says: "Wake up! Choose! Get off the fence! If you're not with me then you're against me!"

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—**Treachery**—There is treachery when the offender commits any of the crimes against a person, employing means, methods, or forms in the execution thereof which tend directly and specially to insure its execution, without risk to himself arising from the defense which the offended party might make. Two essential elements must, therefore, be established, to wit: (a) the employment of means of execution that gives the person attacked no opportunity to defend himself or to retaliate; and (b) the said means of execution was deliberately or consciously adopted. What is decisive is that the execution of the attack made it impossible for the victim to defend himself or to retaliate. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Iglesia, G.R. No. 132354, September 13, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Mabuhay Delegates!

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7 March 2002
Philippine International Convention Center

PROGRAM

7:00-9:30 am Arrival of Paticipants & Registration
Registration Counter, Delegation Building

9:30 - 9:35 Opening Ceremony
Reception Hall

10:00 -10:25 Message from the Private Sector
Ms. Alejandra O. Clemente
President, Federation of Tourism Industries of the Philippines

10:25-10:45 Keynote Speech
Secretary Richard J. Gordon
Department of Tourism

Plenary Session

11:00-11:15 Post September 11th - Challenges and Opportunities for Philippine Tourism: An Outsider's Perspective
Mr. Prithpal Singh
VP, Hotel Properties Ltd. Singapore, Director, Region Air Pte, Ltd.
* Presented by Singapore Airlines

11:15-11:35 Legislative Initiatives for Tourism
Congressman Edgar M. Chatto
Representative, 1st District of the Province of Bohol and Member, Committee on Tourism, House of Representatives

Plenary Session/Cluster Updates

Marketing and Promotions

1:00-1:05 • Introduction to the Marketing and Promotions Program of the DOT
Undersecretary Rolando G. Reyes, DOT

1:05-1:20 • Trends and Developments: What are Our Competitors Doing?
Mr. Christopher Beshouri
Associate Principal, McKinsey & Company

• What are We Doing? Where are We Heading?

1:20-1:30 More Than the Usual Campaign
Mr. David Guerrero
Chariman & Executive Creative Director, BBDO/Guerrero & Ortega

1:30-1:40 The World of WOW Packages
Mr. Felix Cristopher M. Alegre III
President, Philippine Tour Operators Association

1:40-1:50 We'll Take Care of You! Health & Medical Tourism
Dr. Ricardo Quintos
Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Specialist
Associate, National Kidney & Transplant Institute

1:50-2:20 Open Forum

Tourism Services

2:20-2:35 • Trends and Developments: What are Our Competitors Doing?
Undersecretary Oscar P. Palabyab, DOT

• What are We Doing? Where are We Heading?

Presentations:
2:35-2:50 Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA)
3:05-3:20 National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO)
3:05-3:20 Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA)

3:20-3:40 Open Forum

Planning & Product Development

3:55-4:10 • Trends & Developments
Undersecretary Evelyn B. Pantig, DOT

Mr. Jens Peters
Publisher & Travel Writer, Jens Peters Publikationen (Germany)

• What are We Doing? Where are We Heading?

4:25-4:40 NAIA International Air Terminals 3 (IPT3) Project
Mr. Vic Chang Yong, President, PIATCO

4:40-4:55 Roxas Boulevard 2000
Engr. Manuel Berina, Public Estates Authority

4:55-5:15 Open Forum

5:15-5:35 Closing Keynote Message
What Local Government Units Are Cmmitted to Do for Tourism

5:35-6:00 Closing Presentation
"Pilipinas ang Bayan Ko"

6:00 pm Cocktail Reception
PICC Reception Hall Mezzanine

Launching of Ninay Philippine Dolls

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RICHARD J. GORDON
Secretary, Department of Tourism

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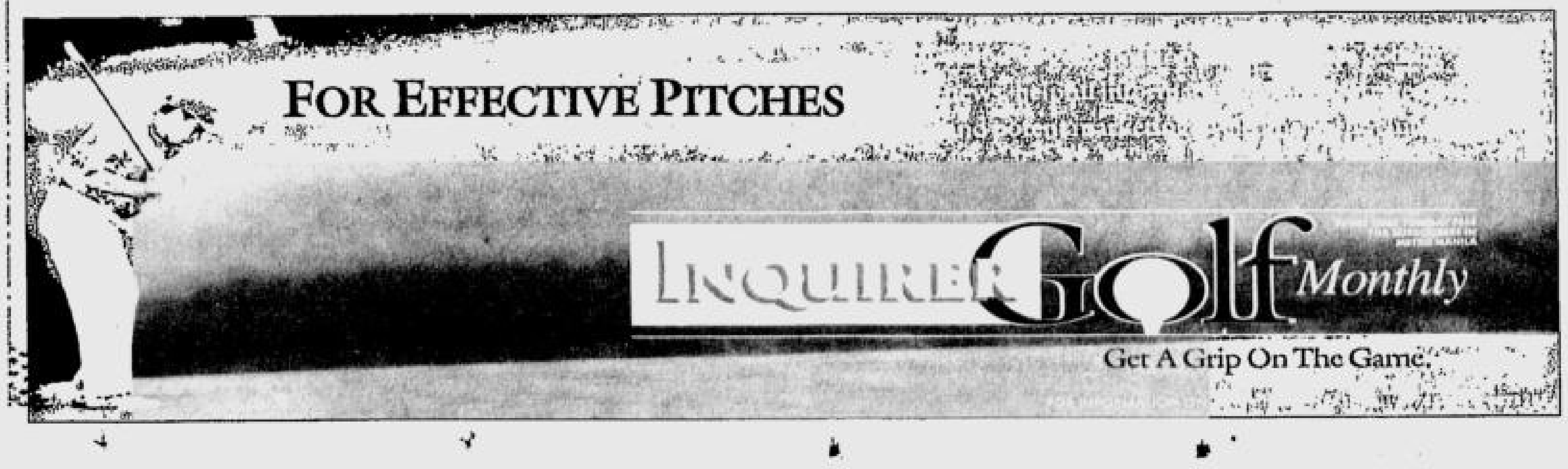

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Malaysia kicks out 1,000 Pinoy illegals

KUALA LUMPUR—About 1,000 Filipinos have been deported from Malaysia's Sabah state after the biggest crackdown on illegal immigrants in decades, reports said Wednesday.

They were given one-way tickets and put on a ferry Tuesday bound for Zamboanga City from Sandakan town in Sabah, which lies on Borneo Island, the Star newspaper said.

The New Straits Times said the latest deportations brought the total number of Filipino illegals deported from Sabah since early this year to 4,477.

The Filipinos were among 3,080 people held in detention camps in Sabah since a sweep against illegal immigrants was launched last week, Sabah police said.

Police had demolished a total of 4,254 squatter houses in the first week of their operation focusing on 12 districts in Sabah and the international offshore financial island of Labuan.

The New Straits Times said a pre-dawn fire Tuesday in Labuan ravaged the largest immigrant squatter colony on the island, leaving more than 5,000 people homeless.

Some 1,000 wooden houses were gutted in the three-hour fire, but no casualties were reported.

Police said they were investigating the cause of the fire, including suspected arson, as the squatters had received eviction notices several months ago and water and electricity supplies were cut recently.

Police have said the Sabah crackdown is also aimed at weeding out armed militant groups, especially from the Philippines, which they said were trying to set up bases in the state's squatter colonies.

The action in Sabah is in line with a tougher approach throughout Malaysia, which is home to 750,000 legal foreign workers and hundreds of thousands of mainly Indonesian illegal immigrants.

The government has said it aims to deport about 10,000 Indonesian illegal immigrants every month.

While Malaysia says illegal migrants have contributed to a growth in crime and other social problems, the tough new line is also seen as a bid to protect jobs for locals in a time of economic hardship. ***AFP***

2,000 ferry passengers stranded

TACLOBAN CITY--At least 2,000 passengers were stranded in the ferry boat terminals in Allen and San Isidro towns in Northern Samar since typhoon "Basyang" threatened the Samar provinces early this week.

Alberto Lim, civil defense provincial coordinator of Northern Samar, said that although "Basyang" has already changed direction, the Coast Guard officials in these towns did not allow the ferries to depart starting Tuesday as the seas have remained rough.

On Tuesday, Northern and Eastern Samar were placed under Storm Signal No. 1

The typhoon was forecast to be 600 km east southeast of Casiguran, Aurora, or 870 km southeast of Basco, Batanes, by yesterday afternoon.

Lim said close to 1,500 passengers bound for Manila were stranded in Allen terminal while about 500 passengers were stranded in San Isidro town.

All trip schedules will resume as soon as Basyang no longer threatens Luzon, Lim said. ***Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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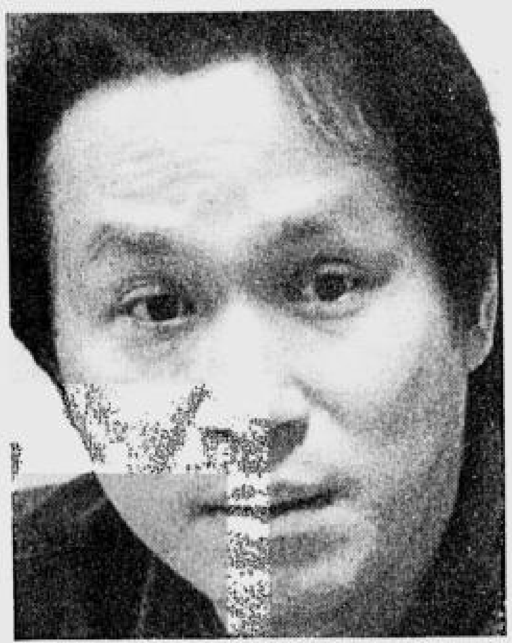


ANG

Speedy hearing for Atong Ang extradition seen

By Chandler E. Ramas
Contributor

LAS VEGAS—With a United States court junking Charlie "Atong" Ang's petition for bail, the Philippine request for his extradition so he can face plunder charges with jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada will proceed more speedily, Philippine officials here said.

"Since he is already in US custody, his presence will be assured in the extradition hearings," said Consul Malou Montero, spokesperson of the consulate general in Los Angeles, which also has jurisdiction over Las Vegas.

While she was not saying that Ang would escape prosecution once granted bail, Montero said "the possibility is always there and there will be impediments."

The denial of bail means that Ang would remain in the North Las Vegas Detention Center, said Greg Dewey, supervisory deputy of the US Marshals here.

In rejecting Ang's request for bail on Thursday, US District Magistrate Lawrence R. Leavitt ruled that bail could be granted in an extradition case only in extraordinary circumstances.

Ang's lawyer, Donald Etra, said he would appeal the ruling.

"Neither law nor justice requires him to remain in jail another day," Etra said.

Leavitt, who has set a May 2 date for extradition arguments, also set a March 26 date for the US government to report its progress in turning over to Etra documents and materials related to the Ang case, said Natalie Collins, a spokesperson for the US Attorneys office.

Under US rules, an extradition request could be refused if the death penalty is involved in the crimes imputed to the fugitive.

Though the charge of plunder is a capital offense, Collins said Assistant US Attorney Gregory Damm was able to obtain an assurance in writing from the Philippine government that Ang's case was not a death penalty case.

Pinoys spread faith in Rome

By Armand Nocum

FILIPINO workers in Italy are helping to bring Catholicism back into the homes of their employers in Rome, the seat of the Roman Catholic faith.

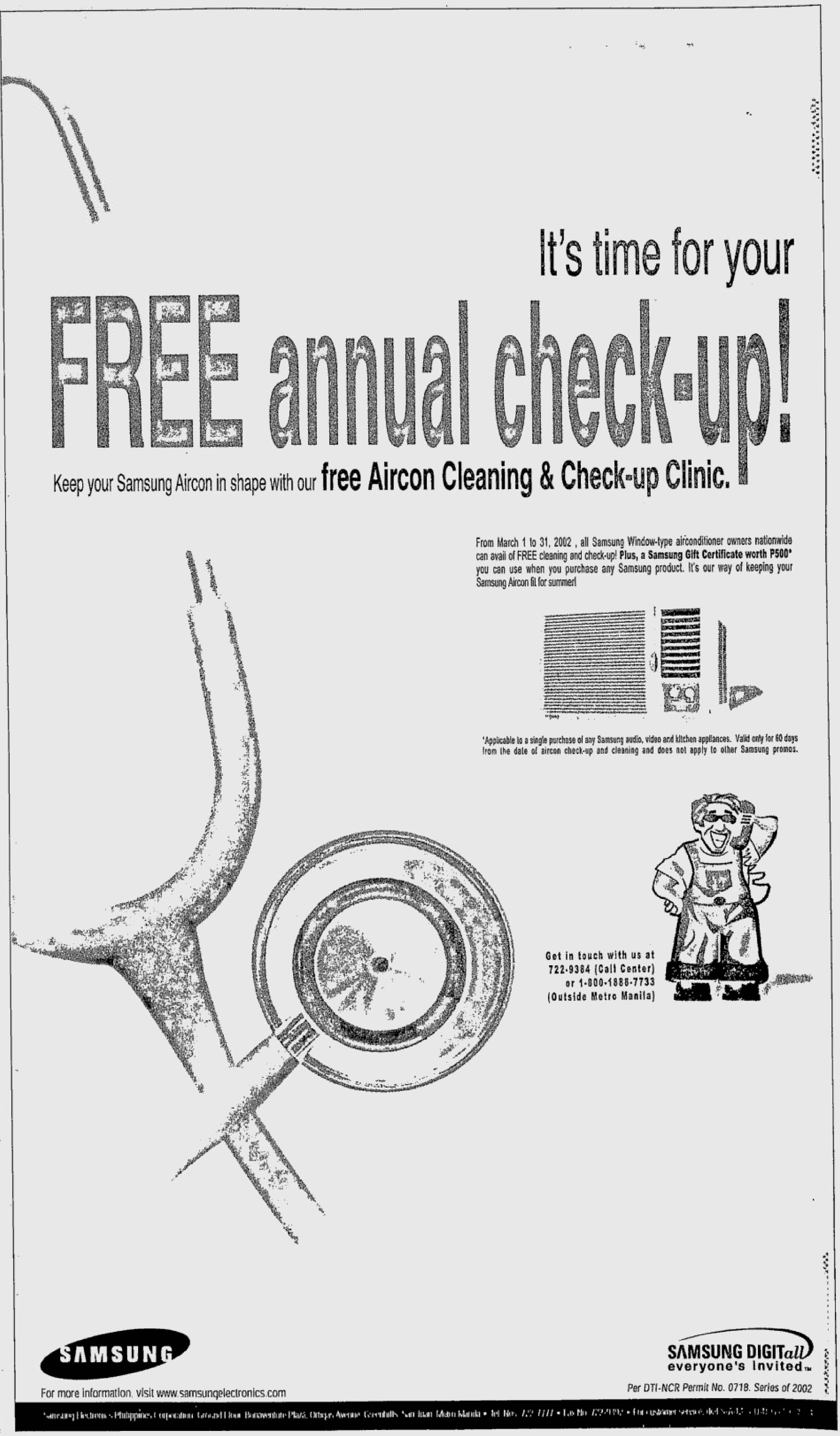
But while new Ambassador to the Holy See Francisco Acevedo Alba said most of the some 450,000 Filipinos working in Italy "are helping keep the Catholic faith strong in Rome and all of Italy," Pope John Paul II let Alba know he was aware of what was happening in the Philippines.

When presenting his credentials to Pope John Paul II on Feb. 8, the Pontiff voiced concern about the peace situation in the country, particularly in Mindanao.

"Your own country is not unaffected by what is happening. A negotiated solution to longstanding difficulties has not been forthcoming and the level of conflict has risen," the Pope noted.

He reminded the Philippine government "the pillars of peace in your land, as everywhere else, are justice and forgiveness. Certainly, we cannot think that justice and forgiveness will come as a result of violence and conflict."

Alba, for his part, told the Pontiff about the efforts of the Filipinos "to overcome the country's political and socio-economic hardships."



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INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 89
ISSN
0116-2642

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
▪ Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
▪ P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
▪ Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
▪ Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 ▪ Advertising 897-4807
▪ Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 /
528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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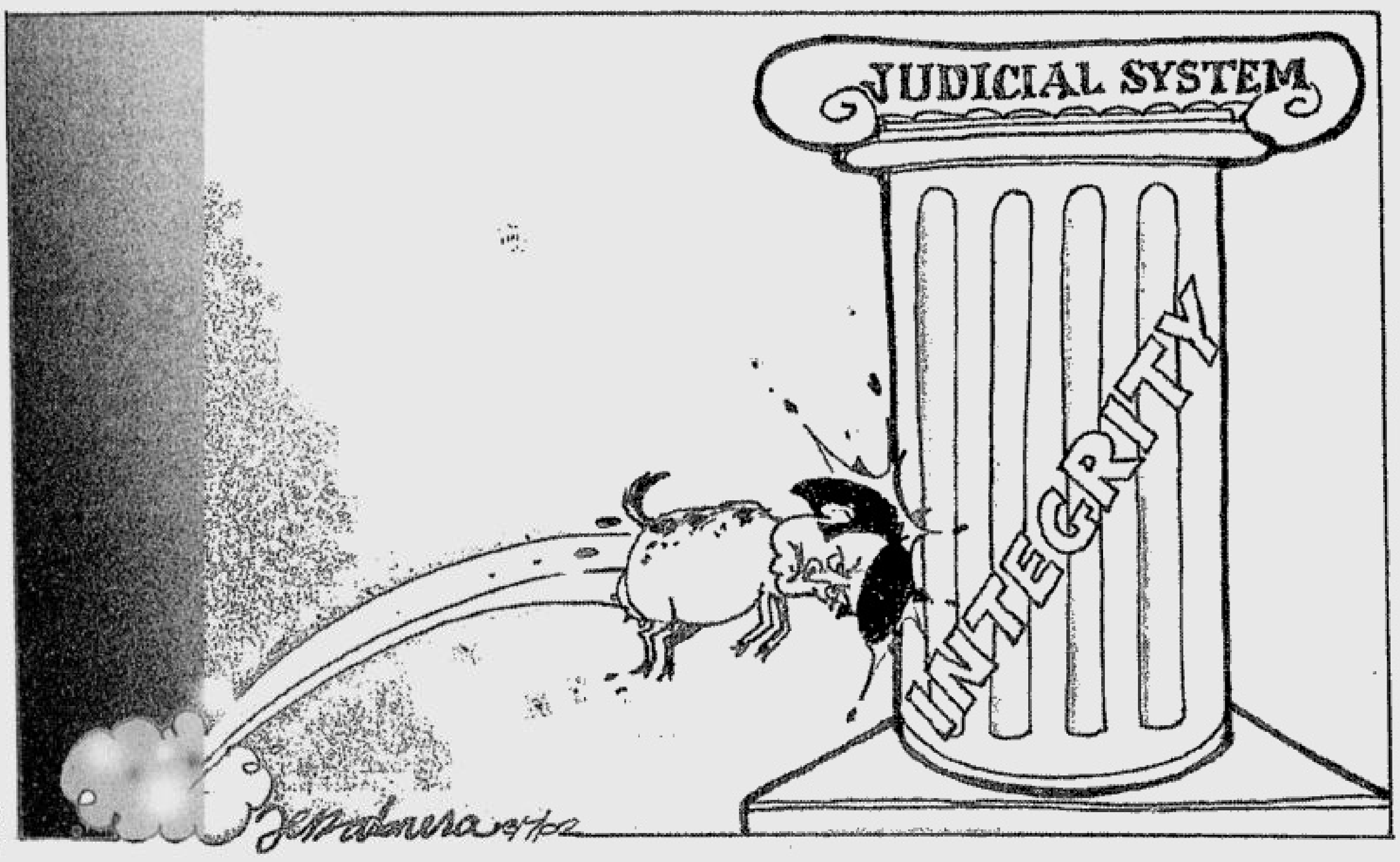

Bluff

EDITORIAL

DEPOSED President Estrada's allies in Congress have changed tack. They have jettisoned their original resolution urging the Sandiganbayan to allow Estrada to go to the United States for medical treatment and replaced it with one calling on the government to let him go on exile for the sake of keeping domestic peace.

The shift followed the hardening of public opinion against the medical treatment proposal and the withdrawal of some of the signers of the first resolution. The medical treatment formula faces tough obstacles, not least of which is that it requires the permission of the Sandiganbayan, which is pushing for a speedy resolution of the plunder and related cases against Estrada. The resolution was clearly a pressure on the Sandiganbayan, a constitutionally independent body, and an act of interference on the part of the members of Congress.

That solution was too complicated because it involved a judicial process. Exile involves a political solution which is perfectly in line with Estrada's objective of politicizing his case and which would put the onus on the executive department or more precisely, the President.

The prime mover behind the campaign to send Estrada into exile, Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon, who by the way belongs to the Nationalist People's Coalition of Estrada crony Eduardo Cojuangco, backs his resolution with the wrong reason. He raises the specter of political unrest if Estrada were not allowed to go on exile. He says that exile is the "lesser evil." Estrada's "temporary exile," Macarambon says, "will avert a political time bomb from exploding, what with his edgy supporters ready to create extremely unnecessary destabilization against the government." He goes on to say, with twisted logic, that mass demonstrations against the government at this time "will result in political instability and wreak havoc on the economy."

This statement is not only a bald threat, it is also based on what the proponents would like to happen and on the assumption that a denial of the petition would spark political turbulence. It assumes that Estrada's allies, probably among the urban poor, would go on a rampage if he were not allowed to leave the country and ignores the reality that the capacity of Estrada to mobilize mass support for this project is in serious doubt. This scheme works on bluff.

The threats have a hollow sound. At least, despite these dire warnings, the business community is not taking them seriously. The market is not panicking or is not nervous. The assertion that we don't need another round of instability just when the economy is rebounding is correct, but such a dire prediction becomes self-fulfilling only when fed by irresponsible blather.

The shift to the exile formula betrays the intentions of the authors of the first resolution. It has become clear that it was not medical treatment that they were after. Medical treatment was just a cover for the real objective of allowing him to escape the trial at the Sandiganbayan, which he and his lawyers have been trying to delay indefinitely. Prior to the exile resolution, Sen. Luisa Ejercito was insisting that all that her husband wanted was a short-term stay in the United States, a refrain that has been echoed by Estrada himself.

A doctor, who wrote in the Inquirer's opinion section a few days ago and one who had pioneered surgery on arthritic limbs years ago, has said that the ailment can be treated locally, but the treatment would be lengthy, implying that if Estrada is going to be treated abroad, he could be away for some time—not just for a quick fix.

In the desperation to get Estrada out of the country at all costs, his allies have not even been consistent with their alibis. Now the cover has been ripped off, and we are in a better position to know that Estrada has long-term plans of staying abroad. It is good to know that exile is all part of the broader scheme to politicize the Estrada cases so that they would be taken out of the jurisdiction of the judiciary.

The President should stop feeling sorry for herself

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IF former President Joseph Estrada goes through with his threat to go on a hunger strike, that would be the best thing he will do for himself even if he is not allowed to go abroad to undergo surgery on his knees. After all, it is already Lent and Holy Week is just around the corner, and these are times when people usually fast as a form of penance, something which Erap needs very much.

Besides being good for the soul, fasting is good physically for people like Erap. For the former movie actor is grossly overweight, and that is bad for his health. Besides overworking his heart, the excess weight makes his knees worse. All that extra weight his knees are carrying makes the worsening of his osteoarthritis faster. Imagine Erap's knees. Already diseased, how can they keep carrying all that excess load 24 hours a day? That is the message that his knees are telling him by giving him pain.

Just by losing weight, Erap's knee pain will decrease even if nothing else is done to it. That is the first thing doctors advise patients with osteoarthritis: reduce weight. Give your knees a break.

As for surgery, Erap shouldn't be colonial-minded and insist on having an American doctor do it. Hundreds of Filipino doctors can do it. They've been doing it for decades. It's almost as simple as an appendectomy.

Don't underestimate Filipino doctors. We have excellent doctors in all disciplines, trained in the best universities and hospitals in the United States. What American doctors can do, they can also do. What American doctors know, they also know.

But if Erap has confidence only in his American doctor, he can send for him to operate on him here. He can bring all the prosthetics, equipment and assistants he needs. With all his money, Erap can afford them. I don't think the Sandiganbayan will be justified in letting him go.

It is not only our justice system that will suffer if Erap succeeds in escaping. The image of the Philippines in the world will also suffer. After being hailed by the world for people power, we will now be the laughingstock of the world.

* * *

Congressmen and senators want Erap to be allowed to go on exile not really because they are looking out for the ousted President. They are actually looking out for themselves.

They want to set a precedent, in case they themselves are caught with their hands in the till. If one politician accused of plunder is allowed to go on exile, they can plead for the same privilege if and when they get caught and face the same charges.

Politicians are really watching the Erap case with dread. If Erap is convicted, that will send a chill through their ranks. If that can happen to a former president, that can happen to lesser mortals like them. But if he gets away with it, that means they, too, may be able to get away with it. *Tuloy ang ligaya.*

That is why Erap should not be allowed to go on exile. It would send the wrong message to our corrupt politicians and government officials. Steal as much as you can as fast as you can and, when caught, ask to go on exile—or else you will destabilize the government—and enjoy your loot, live a life of luxury abroad. We have already sent that message in the case of the Marcoses. Sixteen years after they were caught red-handed, they are nowhere near being punished for their crimes. Don't reinforce that by letting Erap go.

* * *

Like Erap, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should stop feeling sorry for herself. She should stop portraying herself as a martyr in her speeches.

"It's no joke being president," she cried in her latest television address. "I carry the hardships and problems of the country." (*Kawawa naman ako.*)

Well, nobody forced her to be President. If I remember right, she forced the sitting president to step down so she could take over. Now that she has taken over Malacañang, she should not complain.

The criticisms go with the position. Hard work and long hours go hand in hand with the prestige, perks and privileges of the presidency. Aches and pain are part of the turf. If you don't like it, get out. As they keep saying, if you don't like the heat, get out of the kitchen.

You want the criticisms to stop, you want the people to love you? Stop thinking of the 2004 presidential elections.

I think that's where her problems start. All her actions and decisions are calculated to boost her chances in 2004, from the shady deals to raise funds for the campaign to appointing protégés of vested interests who can help her get elected to playing deaf and blind to injustices and irregularities that need to be corrected. She has made many wrong appointments in order to accommodate vested interests, wreaking havoc on the civil service system. The errors have been made clear and, if she is truly true to her oath of office as she claims, she would correct those mistakes by recalling the appointments, as her presidential legal adviser and justice secretary have advised. She can put her foot down on all the controversial deals and end the raging debates.

But she prefers not to see and hear. She prefers to waste her time distributing relief goods in squatter colonies to court their votes. That is the job of social workers, not the President. The President's job is to stay in Malacañang and direct the efficient running of the government.

If the President will only do this, the people will love her and she won't have to feel sorry for herself and deliver tearjerkers.

Spirits

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AT THE CENTER of the square stands a mosque, its dome and stained glass windows below glistening in the setting sun. A crescent on top of the dome is etched starkly against the flare of red behind it. A chorus of voices begging Allah's mercy rises from the depths of its base, rising and falling like the intermittent pounding of seawater on jagged rocks on the shore.

Outside the square, men gather in small groups on the sidewalks. Some are talking animatedly, some are sharing amenities and telling stories, some are reading tabloids. Some of the men wear white caps and some of the women veils, but not all of them do. Most wear plain clothes, or the clothes you and I are accustomed to. There are no women hanging around on the sidewalks.

Stores advertise *halal* meat. They teem with cigarettes of various brands, but they do not have liquor. At least not on the shelves (I do not know if they sell it on the sly to non-Muslims or not very devout ones). Small eateries dot the sidewalks, quite literally of the *turo-turo* variety: the dishes are in plain view inside glass cases by the side of the doorway, an open invitation, or temptation, to passersby. They slosh in sauces of curry, a tangle of yellow and green visible even from afar, and hint of burning tonsils. I am tempted to try them, but resist. I am hot on hot food, not wanting Vasco da Gama's effort to circumnavigate the world to discover spice to go to waste. But I am not hot on curry.

There are signs of modernity pushing in with startling aggressiveness. On one stretch of sidewalk struts a row of game consoles of the Counterstrike variety that has lured in kids of all sizes, including the ones pushing 40, like a siren's song. Eerie arcade sounds emanate from them. Nobody seems to mind, or notice, the incongruity. Vendors have pushed to the middle of one street, making it impassable to vehicles other than bicycles and motorcycles. They are selling delicacies, smoked squid and various fruits, fresh or fermented.

And discs: CDs, VCDs, and even DVDs. They're all over the, threatening to overrun the place. In shops, in stalls, on the very street. Cartons that proclaim them to have come from China, home of the skull and crossbones, are piled up into a mountain. A huge throng gathers in front of them, and the vendors, many of them barely past elementary school, are doing brisk business. This is an underground economy, in every sense of the word.

This scene does not come from Jakarta, though some places there remind me of it. It does not even come from Zamboanga or Sulu, though some places there remind me of it too. It comes right out of our midst, from the belly of the beast, also called Christian power. Which is Quiapo.

That is the really astounding thing about it. The fact that while war rages in the south, while many Christian Filipinos—the Muslims of the south are Filipinos too, a fact that needs repeating again and again—think Christianity and Islam are irreconcilable, while many Christian Filipinos think a good Moro is a dead Moro, Christians and Muslims are living peaceably side by side right under our very noses. No, more than peaceably, in a completely neighborly way in the heart of Christendom.

Quiapo of course is the also the home of the Quiapo Church, as ancient a symbol of Christian power in these islands as the cross of Mactan. It is a place that reeks of Christian piety on Fridays, smelling of incense and burning candles, abuzz with prayers for the dead issuing from the lips of ancient women, paid for by relatively well-off not-very-faithful who have no time to pray and light candles themselves. Or they probably feel that the more passionate intercession of professional candle-lighters and reciters of prayers does wonders for God's ears. Quiapo is the place that on the Feast of the Black Nazarene transforms into an Edsa, the joyous cries and penitential sobs rising to heaven like the exhalations of dry earth at the first brush of rain.

This is the heart of Nick Joaquin's favorite city, brimming with the wealth of Christian heritage, flying the proud banners of a city that held off infidels from various lands. Into this place has sprouted like a mushroom in the dark the thriving community now known as the Muslim Center.

For many Metro Manila residents, of course, it is far less mushroom than weeds growing in an untended garden. Though the anti-Muslim bias is probably less here than in other parts of the country, many Metro Manila residents are not beyond regarding the Muslim Center as a sore spot, aided by stories from newspapers or tabloids about cops being met by gunfire while chasing wrongdoers who duck into its narrow alleyways in the night.

Well, nothing like going there to dispel the illusion. It's no better or worse than the street where you live, except for the patent poverty. But which only makes it like any one or the other urban poor communities of this once proud and noble and now much ravaged and congested city.

I always remember, on the occasions that I've been there, that on the other side of the street, or jumbled maze, beside Quiapo Church, once stood a very proud beacon of democracy, which was Plaza Miranda. That was where voices rang in anger and laughter, in praise and condemnation, in despair and hope, years ago. That was where peddlers and beggars, kings and paupers, met to debate religion and politics, the two topics forbidden at polite tables. That was the seat of tolerance and neighborliness, both tumbling from it like *lanzones* from carts on a bountiful summer's day. That place is gone now, stilled or stifled by the crush of stone and concrete.

But lo and behold, not its spirit.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Erap cannot sustain fast for long

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SEN. Joker Arroyo, one of the lawyers of Ninoy Aquino, is correct: Joseph Estrada cannot last through a fast the way Ninoy did. Ninoy subsisted on water and salt for 40 days until his jailers were forced to take him to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center before the irreversible stage set in. But Erap cannot do this, for this would mean giving up the *bacalao à la Biscayna* imported from Spain, the *cocido español*, the lobsters and the *lechon de leche* that he loves so much, which are brought to him in his fully air-conditioned hospital suite regularly from his Greenhills home.

* * *

Sen. Teresa Oreta dishonored her brother Ninoy Aquino's revered memory by comparing Erap's trial with his. As Joker pointed out, Ninoy from the beginning refused to submit himself to the military court because he believed it had no jurisdiction over a civilian. But Estrada subjected himself to the judicial system in the beginning, as evidenced by the fact that his lawyers challenged—and lost—the constitutionality of the Anti-Plunder Law. Moreover, as columnist Jess Sison pointed out, Erap's lawyers have filed a total of 130 motions before the court, including several to delay his arraignment. That alone is an indication of what the chair of the Sandiganbayan special panel, Justice Minita Nazario, terms "bending over backward" for Erap. It was only when Erap and his lawyers realized that he faced certain conviction because of the weight of the evidence against him, especially his own admission that he was Jose Velarde, that he decided to fire his lawyers and refused to cooperate with the courts. He now plays to the hilt his *masa* sob story of "persecution" by the courts.

* * *

But Erap's non-cooperation cannot be allowed to stop the inexorable turning of the wheels of justice. His case must go on with or without his presence or that of his lawyers, for as one lawyer put it, what will happen if every accused will invoke "injustice" every time something goes wrong for him at the trial? Then no one can ever be convicted.

This brings us to several points. Now we see the lack of wisdom of the Supreme Court's decision barring full TV coverage of the Erap trial (I was among those in the media who advocated full coverage). If Erap and his lawyers are now able to twist the facts, it's because there was no transparency in the proceedings, unlike in the Senate impeachment trial.

Then there's the matter of an exile for Erap. As Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, one of the Lakas members who signed a House resolution asking that Erap be allowed to go abroad for treatment, pointed out, there is "no such animal as 'exile'" in the statute books, and that to create that condition, legislation may be necessary. Then, too, it must be pointed out that after Erap's arraignment, the courts acquired jurisdiction over his case and not even Malacañang can stop the process at this point.

* * *

That Erap and his lawyers are twisting the facts, with the cooperation of some paid hacks in the media, is evident in Erap's statement that "the last straw" was the Supreme Court's denial of bail for his son Jinggoy. What are the facts? In September 2001 Jinggoy petitioned the Sandiganbayan to be allowed to go on bail for medical reasons. On Dec. 20, 2001, the Sandiganbayan denied the petition on the ground that his health did not warrant bail. His lawyers raised it to the Supreme Court but, as former Senate President Jovito Salonga put it in his latest Kilosbayan message, the high court stressed in its decision that it could not rule on the bail issue for the simple reason that Jinggoy has been charged as a co-conspirator in the plunder charges against his father. As such, he first has to go through "the proper procedure, which all persons accused of a capital offense must follow" to avail of bail. Which is to file the bail motion with the Sandiganbayan, which will then order the prosecution to prove that the evidence against Jinggoy is strong. If the prosecution fails to prove this, then he will be entitled to post bail so he can be released from imprisonment.

* * *

But the way Erap tried to paint it, the Supreme Court refused to grant his son bail because it wanted to persecute them, and so he has lost faith in the courts. The truth was that the Estradas did not follow the correct procedure. The lawyers of Erap knew their client was not telling the whole truth in claiming that the denial of a bail to Jinggoy was "the last straw." Perhaps Erap did not know any better, but his lawyers were being intellectually dishonest.

The lawyers also like to point out as evidence of Erap's persecution the Supreme Court's order to create a special division to try his case and the "railroading" of the trial with the thrice-weekly schedule. What they conveniently don't mention is that the concept of the special division dates back to SC Administrative Order No. 104-96 issued in late 1995 during the time of Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, in order to hasten the trial of heinous crimes like kidnapping, robbery, dangerous drug-trafficking and now plunder, and that even lower courts in various places have one or two special courts operating. As to the thrice-weekly trial for Erap, this falls under RA 8493, "An Act to Ensure A Speedy Trial of All Criminal Cases," which was passed by Congress in February 1998, again during the tenure of Narvasa. Thrice weekly hearings for Erap are nothing compared to, say, the Vizconde murder trials under Judge Amelita Tolentino. Narvasa is quiet when his prominent client rails at the Supreme Court about developments during his watch.

Is chivalry dead?

YOUNGBLOOD

Cyrus Alvarez and Norene Arreglado

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

CYRUS says:

I must admit that I'm not really the type people would call a gentleman. I don't give up my seat on the bus just so a girl can sit. I'd much rather give my seat to a very old man or woman, or a very pregnant woman, than to a strong, able-bodied girl who happened to get on the bus after I did.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not a thick-skinned, insensitive guy. It's just that I believe in gender equality. I believe that if I can ride the bus standing all the way from Fairview to Baclaran, a woman can do the same thing.

I don't want to look down on the physical abilities of women. Some women can run faster or jump higher than me. Some are even stronger than me. Some can drink a lot more alcoholic beverages than I would ever dream of taking. Given all these, what's the use of being chivalrous?

Chivalry was popular in the Middle Ages when women were looked down upon as nothing more than damsels in distress who needed to be saved by knights in shining armor. But look at the women now. They have not only realized that they are capable of doing probably anything that men can do; they have also started to demand to be treated the way men are treated.

What pisses me off is that most women nowadays use the flag of feminism and gender equality only when it is convenient for them. For instance, during a job interview, a woman will claim that she can do the job as well, if not better, than men can. But on her way home, even if she knows there is no vacant seat in the jeepney, she will still squeeze herself on to the seat, with her butt barely touching it, making the men feel guilty that they are sitting comfortably while she is suffering. Now, a regular Filipino guy, being a true gentleman, will naturally get up and stand on the *estribo* to make way for her. So, this miss who can do what men do will sit comfortably all the way home while the gentleman will have to hang on for dear life at the back of the jeepney even though the seat was rightfully his.

Women always use their femininity to their advantage. Men lift their bags for them because they claim that "it's too heavy." And why wouldn't it be heavy? They usually stuff the whole closet into a bag when they travel.

They would make men wait for hours on a date but complain endlessly if their dates are late for five minutes.

The same woman who demands to be treated as an equal also expects you to pay for her dinner, to pull her seat from the table, to take her home and pay for the taxi.

This same "independent" woman who conveniently call upon "girl power" would complain in disgust that "chivalry is dead" when a man does something "ungentlemanly," like not walking her home.

Is chivalry dead? Not by a long shot. As long as women still want to be treated like damsels in distress, albeit only in some circumstances, some stupid men will still think it is their solemn obligation to protect the female of the species.

If a woman is a true advocate of feminism and gender equality, she should feel insulted if a man treats her like a damsel in distress. As long as people, especially women, think of women as the weaker sex, gender equality will never happen.

But then what do I really know? I'm just a man.

* * *

NORENE says:

I am not the type who expects a man to pay for my fare or my meal, or offer his seat on a bus for me. But I wouldn't mind if he does so: free fare and a safe and comfortable trip to my place are not a bad idea.

But can men blame us? Women are used to it. Men insist on doing it because of their "male chauvinistic drives." It hurts their egos when a woman does something they believe to be a man's job. It is a completely selfish act. They satisfy their egos and not the girls'.

Another thing that bugs me is the accusation that women are using gender equality for their own convenience. Isn't it the other way around—men using gender equality for their own convenience, i.e., they are too lazy to offer a seat or pull a chair for a lady or to walk her home?

Oh, yes, we are using our femininity as an advantage when we squeeze ourselves on to a jeepney seat, with our butt barely touching the seat but touching the man's thigh. This makes them feel guilty not because they are gentlemen but because they are sexually aroused. I am sorry for putting it so bluntly (I know it is very unfeminine of me) but that's the reality—at least as far as some men are concerned.)

Knights in shining armor are definitely long dead. A man who offers his seat to a beautiful and sexy woman is not a real gentleman but an ego-tripper who is trying to impress the lady. If that woman were not so beautiful, I doubt if he'd even notice her!

If a boy is with his girl in church and an old woman is standing behind him, he will ignore the poor lady. He would rather spend the whole Mass seated beside his young and sweet girl than stand behind an old hag.

Women are really searching for knights in shining armor but we don't want to be treated as damsels in distress. Is it really hard for men to understand that what we want is equality? We want to be treated with respect and to enjoy the same rights as men, but we also want to preserve the demarcation line between male and female. If not, what is the use of calling us women and them men?

Men should stop considering us as the weaker sex because we definitely are not weak. Well, physically maybe—that's why we need a gentleman to carry our heavy bag or, to escort us when it's already dark and there is a danger of getting raped and stuff like that. But emotionally and psychologically, it's men who are dependent on women. (Ask a psychologist.) So that about makes things even.

Actually, there are lots of things I don't get. Like when you are on a date and the guy has to shoulder all the expenses—I really don't believe in that. Girls can share in paying the bill. After all, they both enjoy the date.

Going back, chivalry is meant to be a man's virtue, not an obligation. It is supposedly second nature to man. Now if a man sulks after doing a chivalrous act, then I pity him.

For as long as the male of the species hangs on to the belief that chivalry is only meant for damsels in distress, equality can never be achieved and there will never be a real gentleman.

Well, that's a woman's observation.

Cyrus Alvarez and Norene Arreglado are students of the Southern Luzon Polytechnic College in Lucban, Quezon. They are coauthors of a book, titled "From Aurora's Bosom," a project of the Unicef and the Philippine Information Agency in Region IV.

Sweet solution to garbage problem

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DURING her first term as mayor of San Fernando, La Union, Mary Jane Ortega received a letter from a multinational institution asking if she was interested in taking part in a new comprehensive program on solid waste management. Over 100 mayors received the same letter, recalls Mary Jane, but only about 15 responded positively. The institution then wrote back informing them that if they were serious about the program, they should first produce an ordinance endorsing the city's participation. "And of the 15 who first responded, only two managed to produce the ordinance," says Mary Jane. Naturally, one of them was San Fernando.

Today, after years of negotiations and consultations, Mary Jane proudly brings visitors to the city's four-hectare controlled landfill dump. She considers it a distinct accomplishment, even if the funds for an engineered landfill on an adjacent 4.5 hectares have only just come in. But even now, the dump already draws officials and employees from many local government units from around the country, all interested in an environmentally friendly and viable solution to the garbage crisis.

The afternoon we visited, there was only a backhoe and payloader sitting on top of the landfill, with a few trash pickers. "I'm surprised they're even here," commented Mary Jane, adding that they're usually around in the morning.

The trash pickers, residents of the nearby barangay and some who used to pick through trash in the old dump, have been organized into a cooperative, headed by the barangay head, who organizes the pickers and the sale of recyclable and scrap materials. Tellingly, there are no shanties or shacks around the dump.

* * *

ANOTHER remarkable thing about the dump is the absence of any foul smell, even if each load of trash is only turned over and covered with earth.

During her visits to dumps abroad, recalls Mary Jane, she would be asked "what scent I wanted to smell." It turns out that in many huge commercial dumps, operators could turn valves that release specific scents to deaden the unpleasant odors from the solid waste matter. "During meal times, they could release the scent of cinnamon, or floral scents at night," Mary Jane says with a laugh.

Aware of her limited budget but enamored of the idea, Mary Jane instead planted around the dump fragrant plants, such as *ylang-ylang*, *dama de noche* and *kampupot*, as well as fruit-bearing trees like papaya.

Mary Jane eagerly anticipates the opening of the engineered landfill, which will have pits lined with clay to prevent leachate from fouling the soil and possibly the water table. But even now, the San Fernando system and dump is a model for rational garbage collection, segregation and dumping. Perhaps the mayors of Metro Manila might want to pay San Fernando a visit, if only to learn that the problem need not be a headache for both officials and residents.

* * *

"YOU know, I myself am amazed at the energy of that woman," commented La Union Gov. Victor Ortega, referring to his wife of 39 years. Just to illustrate the boundless energy that Mary Jane could muster, she packed a full day's schedule and more during my visit.

In between our visits to sites of interest, she managed to squeeze in a meeting with the provincial Red Cross committee, to drop by the agro-industrial fair in front of the City Hall (and also to give me a chance to take home *pasalubong*), and then to check out the memorial at Pacsil Ridge, which she plans to develop into a major historical and educational site.

It was the taking of Pacsil Ridge, says Mary Jane, that gave Filipino and American troops breathing space to advance their push into Northern Luzon. The historical marker is topped by a peace memorial, which Mary Jane hopes can be used to teach students the value of human life and aspirations for a world of peace.

* * *

OUR long day was capped by a drive to Agoo, the site of the spanking new, state-of-the-art La Union Medical Center, "a gift of the European Union to the province."

Found at the end of a narrow dirt drive, the compound boasts of a complex of pastel-painted buildings topped with tiled roofs. It hardly looks like a hospital, much less a government hospital, sitting amid a manicured garden and spic-and-span surroundings.

The Medical Center was inaugurated last Saturday by Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, EU Charge d'Affaires Luc Vandebon and Ambassador to Mexico Justo Orros. It was during former Governor Orros' term that La Union secured the grant from the EU. It took 10 years from the day the proposal was first discussed to its inauguration, following a complicated series of negotiations, securing approval for the site and construction of the center. The center is almost wholly European in provenance, from architectural design to equipment and even furniture "down to the chairs."

The hospital kitchen, canteen and even laundry are so advanced they rival even those of five-star establishments. But it's the world-class nature of the facility that precisely has Governor Ortega worried. "We will need P500 million a year just to have the Medical Center run the way it should," he said, and that is not an inconsiderable sum, given that the province's entire health budget for the year is P800 million.

Thus, one of the schemes being considered is to offer its facilities for the use of private doctors and their paying patients. And certainly, at the La Union Medical Center, patients will find medical care comparable to the best in the country.

Txt mssgs frm d clncaly dprssd

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE FEATURE article on people who suffer from clinical depression that I wrote for the Sunday Inquirer Magazine four days ago elicited many responses (more than 200 as of yesterday). That story ("Up from Under the Dark Cloud") featured concert pianist Leonor Kilayko, my good friend and schoolmate in what we used to call "the Berlin Wall." That piece also featured several brave others.

I had written about Leonor and her music years ago after she returned from a long stay in Germany. She did not tell me she was suffering from bipolar episodes. But she had baffling moods that got me so mad one time. Better to leave her alone, I said. I'm basically a very happy person, you see.

When Leonor revealed to me last year that she had "this thing" and that people needed to understand the dark episodes that people like her suffered from, I listened intently and popped the question: Could I write about it? Would she be brave enough to come out with it? We had a long talk and Mexican lunch at Tia Maria's. We ended with Leonor saying she totally trusted my judgment.

I waited for the right time. And then someone wrote "Tita Dulce's" advice column in the Lifestyle section to call for a support group for the clinically depressed. After much hesitation, Gabe Lee, the letter writer, agreed to be interviewed on the phone. Of depression he said: "You never forget you're sad."

One call led to another. Two brave women, Connie Roceles and Mimi, came out to meet me at a coffee place, to talk about what it was/is like.

Leonor gave depression a face and a voice; Connie, Gabe and Mimi added their voices plus numbers to text or call, an e-mail address, a support group named I-Empathize Group (IEG) and a network that would include those in the helping (medical, psychological, spiritual) field. IEG wants to offer hope and **save lives**.

The response to the article, Connie says, is overwhelming. This says a lot. People needing other people and finding one another at last. Below are some text messages sent via Connie and which she forwarded to me to let me know that the risk they took in telling their story was not in vain. My own cell phone is now perpetually clogged.

"Gudpm. I read d INQUIRER article today & I just want 2 tell u dat I know how it feels 2 b burdened w bipolarism im glad dat u hav found a way 2 make it more bearable 4 its sufferers still dnt no wat it takes 2 admit dat i 2 suffer dis disorder 4 fear of discrimination. i admire u guys 4 coming out & pls tell d pipol who txt u fr dvo if dey want 2 start a support grp here. im eager 2 join. ive been isolated 4 smtime so i dnt know how 2 form a grp..."

"M 29 single young prof. Thanks a lot..."

"I wish I cld join ur group but im in dvo. Im glad u guys came out in d article. It hlpd me a lot 2 know dat im not alone or 'crazy' thank u for being brave."

"I hope we wil also hav a support group here in Iloilo. im takin (name of medicine) but it doesn't help much. Im drnkng gin now. I really need help"

"m lyk falling leaves abt 2 wither & blwn awy! Lyf holds no meaning 4 me at ths point. m so hurt tht m dying insyd...dnt knw wht 2 do?"

"RED ABOUT U (Connie) IN D INQUIRER 2DAY LYK LEONOR I HAV BIPOLR DSORDER SINS 1998. M CING A PSYCHIATRIST N UNDER MED. M BTER NOW BUT IT STILL CAMS N GOS...DO U KNOW OF ANY GRPS LYK URS HIR IN ZBGA CTY?"

"im (name). I just realzd my stuatn aftr readn d artcle n nquirer. my dpresion s not realy that serious but sadnes s now getn over myhole bein!"

"I salut Leonor 4 hr brave bold stp. im an rtst 2 bt afrd 2 admt 4 fir dat my carir myt b afctd. 2 IEG ur name wl go down in hs2ry"

"Im not talkin institutional rlgion so btwen mdcation wc was not 4 long tho n 98 i dsposd of drugs for meditation. is der a local e-grp on yahoo?"

"GudPM! my name is...from cotbato. read d pdi mag artik. ive had sevral episodes myslf last was til sept last year. wat made me snap out is God connksyn & am bettr, I stil feel vry low symtyms but I get by w/d help of my dr. pls keep in touch n tnx 4 d article"

"I JUST READ DA SUNDAY INQUIRER 03/03/2002 I WONDER F DIS CAN HELP MY 53 YR OLD MOTHER WHO SUFFER A SIMILAR DISORDER HOW CAN I AVAIL DIS TREATMENT?"

"WOULD U PLS REFER ME 2 DA PRIEST U MENTIONED IN DA (ARTICLE) OF CERES DOYO PLSTxt mssgs frm d clncaly dprssd DIS IS (name) TY"

"Interested 2 join. Om Shanti! (I am a peaceful soul)*"

Connie called to tell me about an existing Asean network and Servier, a group of psychiatrists who are ready to serve. Right now there is a need for the IEG core group to unite and not let small matters get in the way.

Connie invited me to their next meeting, but I said I do not qualify because I do not suffer from depression. I am blessed with lots of serotonin but this does not mean I have not known the deepest pain, pain that makes one enter inexorably into the passion and compassion of God. Besides, I told Connie, the media should not be around when people talk about their eternal sadness.

Incidentally, after a thanksgiving Mass and dinner that I attended last Sunday, I spoke with brilliant psychologist Fr. Jaime Bulatao, S.J. who was my teacher (Psychological Testing, Projective Techniques). I told him about the people under the cloud. Yes, he said, you'd be surprised by how many they are now.

Clinical depression can now be successfully managed with new wonder drugs plus psychotherapy. Thank Leonor, Gabe, Connie and Mimi for giving it a face, a voice. For offering hope. GUD LCK 2 U OLJ

(Contact IEG through Connie at 8232240 or 0917-8102445 or Gabe at bipolar_manila@yahoo.com.)

Non-pollutive incinerators don't exist

IN 1998, the incinerator lobby succeeded in derailing the Clean Air Act in the House of Representatives, to pave the way for the San Mateo Incinerator Project. This was planned to be the biggest incinerator in the world, lying on 106 hectares of watershed area.

The contract was gravely onerous. Among its provisions were government guaranteed escalating volume of waste and tipping fees, the award to Jancom of lands reclaimed by the Public Estates Authority and subsidy for the electricity generated by the incinerator at a price higher than the rates charged by Meralco to its customers.

So great was the public outrage over this contract that President Fidel V. Ramos backed out from signing it. In 1999, Congress revived the Clean Air Act, heeding the clamor of the citizenry. More than five million signatures demanded its passage with the incinerator ban. Finally, after almost three years of debate on the ban, which saw the demolition of the arguments of incinerator proponents, and in spite of a P150-million lobby against it as revealed by then Speaker Manuel Villar, the Clean Air Act was passed with the incinerator ban intact.

Now, Jancom, the incinerator proponent, is back with a vengeance riding on a highly questionable Supreme Court decision which has upheld its onerous and discredited contract with the government and ruled that the incinerator ban is not absolute and applies only to incinerators with pollutive emissions, a decision which surprised the authors of the Clean Air Act.

Rep. Nereus Acosta said that the definition of incineration as a process which emits pollution is very clear. This has a strong authoritative basis in a US Supreme Court 1994 decision, which ruled that ash from incinerators burning municipal waste is "hazardous waste." How much more if the waste burned is toxic? In other words there is no such thing as "non-pollutive incinerators."

The solution to the garbage problem is Republic Act 9003, which mandates the setting up of MRFs or recycling centers in every barangay or barangay cluster as well as segregation at source. Segregation at source stops the generation of garbage (segregated waste is a resource while unsegregated waste is garbage) and recycling centers provide composting and proper storage for waste resource thus eliminating dangerous, dirty, smelly dumps.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is our last line of defense against the ruthless onslaughts of powerful interests. We earnestly ask her not to sign the contract with Jancom. Instead, we ask that she exercise her moral and political leadership to get the LGUs to follow their mandate to implement RA 9003's provisions for a recycling center in every barangay or barangay cluster and segregation at source. Only then will the garbage problem be really solved.

—ESTER PEREZ DE TAGLE, DR. ANGELINA GALANG, DR. MITODIO PALAYPAY, VON HERNANDEZ, Concerned Citizens Against Pollution (Cocap), Penthouse-A, JMT Corporate Condominium, 27 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Women's 'barkada'

THE WORD "*barkada*" evokes images of men drinking together, with the music from liquor advertisements playing in the background.

Try now to think of women's *barkada*. It's a bit more difficult, but I'm sure you've seen them, a girls' night out in restaurants, bars, discos.

Don't underestimate those gatherings. I think these *barkada* can be powerful agents for social transformation, from the crafting of new spousal and parenting roles, all the way to toppling governments.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Let's backtrack a bit and try to figure out how this happens. First, we know that the subjugation of women consists mainly in keeping her confined within the household or the domestic sphere. As long as she is kept there as a baby-maker and an unpaid servant for her husband and sons, she will remain unquestioning.

Think of the Afghan women, until recently cloistered within their homes whose windowpanes were painted opaque colors to prevent them from looking out and the world from looking in. The situation may not be as severe in the Philippines but to a large extent, especially in rural areas, women are still tied to the domestic sphere. When you have eight children, born a year apart, you are effectively sequestered in your homes.

Men, in contrast, are constantly foraying out into the public sphere. Early in life, they gain full autonomy, able to move around and engage in the affairs of the world, within their own town, or beyond. Their lives revolve around this acquisition of status, all the way up to squandering their earnings, however meager, on their *barkada*.

But even in societies with the most severe of restrictions for women, there is always a small window of opportunity to gain, and to expand female autonomy. The key is the *barkada*. Domestic chores—for example, doing laundry by the river—brings women together. Away from the prying eyes of their menfolk, the women can bare their hearts and souls, something which, incidentally, men are less prone to do even with their best friends. The female *barkada* becomes a therapy and social support group.

Mind you, the female *barkada* can be counterproductive, too, often functioning as part of repressive social control institutions. This is especially the case when *manangs*, our local version of the religious police, dominate. The *manangs*—and they are to be found even in the most sophisticated urban *barkada*—usually invokes religion to keep the other women subservient.

The key then is having some enlightened members of the *barkada* being able to see beyond their narrow prescribed roles. If the *barkada* has linkages outside the village—for example, the more adventurous women who leave for the big city or someone who reads Rina Jimenez-David or Margy Holmes—there are more options and choices now, the result of access to new public knowledge.

Rural women are often restricted because they only have one small *barkada*. The options expand for those who migrate to bigger towns and cities, where they form different peer groups, in the neighborhood, at work, or among colleagues in a profession. These *barkada*, no longer bound to household duties alone, can offer new horizons and visions. One of my students, Aileen Panguntalan, just defended her masteral thesis where she documents the amazing solidarity ties among women migrant factory workers in Cavite, the women helping each other in a range of activities from the most personal and intimate concerns to workplace problems.

The key then is a *barkada* that plugs into the public sphere. It is this same principle which we need to look at when it comes to the Filipina's economic clout. It's said that the Filipina controls the purse strings but for as long as her decisions are confined to day-to-day household expenditures, her autonomy remains limited. Now if she is able to "invest" in the public sphere, opening a small store, for example, then there are new opportunities for acquiring more capital, both economic and social.

Long before all this talk about microfinancing, our women's *barkada* have been crucial in offering alternative sources of capital, together with its own credit sources and "intelligence" networks. Just think of the coteries of little old *lolas* exchanging crucial financial information on which stocks to buy or unload, which properties to purchase or divest.

It doesn't always have to be such high-end business ventures, of course. Women's *barkada* converge into networks for all shapes and sizes of businesses, from the *talipapa* to the *tiangge* to the boutiques.

Even more importantly, because these economic ventures are now in the public sphere, women become more conscious of how politics affects their business prospects. That's where you get the politicized Filipina *barkada*.

Who do you think mobilized for all Edsa I and II? Our men would not have gone out into the streets without their mothers, sisters, wives, *lolas*, mothers-in-law pushing them, maybe even getting behind the wheel of the family van and ordering them, "Let's go, boys. We're not going to let this *anak-ng-tatay-niya* wreck our lives," her dwindling stock portfolio at the back of her mind.

I remember during the bad old days of the Marcos dictatorship, many of the political groups expanded through these women's *barkada*. The Concerned Women of the Philippines, still a formidable force of *ilustrada* women with surnames like Quezon-Avanceña and Pardo de Tavera, grew out of a *barkada* of *Assumptionistas*. There are many similar groups that germinated from *colegiala barkada*, and when they finally screamed (with *colegiala* poise of course), "Enough already, too much already!" that marked the beginning of the end of Marcos.

Next time you see a group of women in one corner of a restaurant engaged in animated conversation, don't think they're planning some Tupperware party. Nope, they're probably advising one of their sisters to send her good-for-nothing husband to his mistress, collect...or they may be plotting some rally, their cell phones and directories of e-mail addresses ready in their handbags for the next mobilization.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Will Las Piñas have LRT line?

THOUGH I study at the Perpetual Help College of Rizal in Las Piñas, I regularly go to Divisoria to buy merchandise for our *sari-sari* store. I'm sure I'm not alone when I say that the heavy traffic near the Baclaran Church is unbearable—hellish even. Although it's still two years before I finish my course, I already dread the prospect of commuting daily to Manila or Makati to work.

My friends in Cavite boast that they'll soon enjoy the luxury of riding the Light Rail Transit when its expansion to Cavite is finished. *Nakakainggit sila.*

I myself take the LRT going to Sta. Cruz on my way to Divisoria and I love every second of the ride. The P12 I pay is well worth it, considering that I manage to breeze through the perennially clogged Taft Avenue.

Is it too much for Las Piñas residents to ask the government to also extend the LRT to our city? *Marami rin po kasing empleyado at estudyante ang nagpaparine't-parito mula* Las Piñas *pa*-Manila.

If we have to sign a petition to accomplish this, we will do that.

—RONALD VERGARA, 11 Taurus St., Pamplona Park II, Las Piñas City

REMINDER
FOR
50
MAX

Chief presidential legal counsel inhibited self in Jancom case

IN HIS column last Feb. 28, Neal H. Cruz quoted the Citizen's National Network Against Poverty and Corruption (CNN-APC) as saying that Chief Presidential Legal Counsel (CPLC) Avelino J. Cruz Jr. is one of the lawyers behind a supposed lobby in favor of the Jancom Group in connection with the Metro Manila Waste Management Project. CNN-APC also mentioned that Cruz would recommend to the President approval of the contract.

While Cruz admitted that CNN-APC did not present conclusive evidence to support its claims, it is still necessary to set the facts straight.

After the decision was promulgated by the Supreme Court, certain matters relating to the Jancom contract were referred to the Office of the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel for our comments and recommendations. At every instance, Cruz disclosed the fact that the law firm to which he was previously connected had served as legal counsel for a foreign partner of Jancom Environmental Corp. For this reason, Cruz repeatedly inhibited himself from making any comments or recommendations in connection with the Metro Manila Waste Management Project, including any transactions between the Republic of the Philippines and the Jancom Group.

On at least four separate occasions, Cruz informed in writing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Executive Secretary Alberto G. Romulo and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin S. Abalos of his inhibition. Enclosed for your reference are copies of his memoranda.

—RODEL A. CRUZ, undersecretary, Office of the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, Ground Floor, Executive Offices, Malacañang, Manila

Properties bought before Alvarez joined Cabinet

IT must be out of sheer desperation that my detractors, hiding behind a veil of anonymity, took a precious page in your paper to exhibit their trickery which intentionally beclouded some basic truths.

My Statement of Assets and Liabilities was filed on March 9, 2001, just over a month after I was appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the Department of Transportation and Communications. To declare that I could not have earned my P36.88 million total real and personal assets after being the transportation secretary for just 45 days is regrettably illogical, if not a malicious insinuation.

My detractors' scandal sheet omits the fact that the real properties I own were acquired before I became the transportation secretary, thus part of my SAL, and are products of long years of practicing a profession. When I first acquired an industrial lot worth P7 million in 1984, I used a cash advance from my father, who is not exactly poor.

The Magallanes property of 600 square meters, which I bought partly with another cash advance has already been paid in full, using part of the proceeds from the sale of my wife's Wintrack shares and the sale of my shares in Alvarez, Silva, Clavano and Associates.

The land area, moreover, is hardly adequate to accommodate a "mansion." And as stated in my SAL, the Magallanes property was acquired in 2000, months before I was appointed to the DOTC post.

If my detractors would pick on the value of AZ Printing, which has not started operating, they must be capable of selling Manila City Hall to any unwary investor.

My detractors' latest "truth series" again surreptitiously inserted a picture of the Baguio property which they want me to acknowledge as mine.

I now realize the capability of my detractors' demolition machine to destroy the dignity of any Tom, Dick and Harry who stands in the way of their personal agenda. I have resolved to henceforth keep my silence because I realize the futility of engaging my detractors in a rational and truthful debate.

—PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ, secretary, Department of Transportation and Communications, The Columbia Tower, Barangay Wack-Wack, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City

Incorrect assertion

BELINDA Olivares-Cunanan's assertion in her column (PDI, 3/4/02) that I was one of those who had "accused the Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan of being politicized" was incorrect.

My comment on former President Joseph Estrada's dismissal of his lawyers was limited to its political impact on the lives of our people. That is why I said it was a political masterstroke. Hence, I suggested that Estrada's move had better be responded to creatively by the administration and by the courts. Otherwise there could be serious repercussions on the stability of the government itself.

Incidentally, I also cautioned the followers of Estrada not to take the law into their own hands.

—AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR., minority leader, Senate

Baguio club officers face several cases

I AM writing in response to the letter of Federico R. Agcaoili last Feb. 22. I am the person to whom he was referring in the third paragraph of his letter.

It is quite amazing and disappointing that a learned lawyer and respected leader could be so terribly mistaken. One of my children was molested by an employee of the Baguio Country Club in the club premises. There is an ongoing criminal trial as the result of a criminal complaint filed by the police. I was called as a witness. I was never rejected since I never applied for membership. My wife is a stockholder of the club.

I did file, on behalf of my child, a civil suit against the Baguio Country Club, its management, its board and the child molester who has kept his job in the club. Since it is a civil action, it is impossible for a "prosecutor" to dismiss it. I never heard of having to consult a prosecutor in order to file a civil action. The case was dismissed by a regional trial court judge who was a classmate and close friend of Agcaoili. An administrative complaint against the judge is pending with the Supreme Court.

The real reason for Agcaoili's displeasure might be the criminal complaint we filed on behalf of a minor US citizen against the judge, the board of directors and management of the Baguio Country Club with the US Department of Justice as well as the civil action for damages filed in Palm Beach, Florida. We presented evidence that the management and the board of directors had prior knowledge that their employee molested two other children and that they took no action to remove him. Conspiracy and being an accessory might not be a crime in the Philippines, but it certainly is in the United States under certain US long-arm statutes.

When the Grand Jury returns an indictment, Agcaoili and the other members of the board and the management will be arraigned before a US magistrate if they enter the United States. In the civil suit, if they do not answer the citation by publication, they most likely will lose by default and we will execute the resulting judgment against any assets they may have in the United States.

As a corollary matter, a complaint has been filed against the judge under the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

—NAME WITHHELD ON REQUEST

Senators misbehaving during sessions

I BROUGHT my sister, who is based in California, to watch the Senate session last Monday, Feb. 18 since she wanted to see a live session before going back to the United States. And I was very embarrassed to see senators walking around or even holding a private caucus in front of a colleague who was delivering a well-researched paper against the death penalty, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. Senate President Franklin Drilon had to suspend the session for one minute to get the erring senators to observe proper decorum.

There were such "honorables" as Sen. Ralph Recto having a private conversation; Sen. Francis Pangilinan walking and talking to his neighbors; Sen. Renato Cayetano conversing and not paying attention; Sen. Ramon Revilla walking and passing in front of the speaker without even saying, "Excuse me."

These actions continued even after the session resumed. In short, they were not listening to the issues being raised. How can they intelligently react and make critical inputs in deciding an important issue that affects the very life, liberty and rights of people in a democracy? The death penalty issue is certainly very important. To kill or not to kill an alleged criminal is indeed a matter of life and death.

I was glad that there were no students in the gallery to witness the senators doing what they were taught not to do in class when the teacher is speaking. That would have set a bad example to the youth.

If senators are inattentive and impolite during sessions, then God help the taxpayers because we would not get the kind of quality output we expect from them.

I would like to mention that Sen. Juan Flavier was all ears during the session. May his tribe increase.

—DR. ESTELA LL. GARCIA, 28 June St., Congressional Ave., Project 8, Quezon City

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Hundreds of Taliban fighters killed

GARDEZ, Afghanistan—US-led coalition troops cleared more caves in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan and more allied Afghan soldiers massed in the foothills Wednesday as the offensive to wipe out al-Qaida and Taliban holdouts raged on.

After five days of air and ground operations, US officials said Wednesday that about half of the militants believed to be hunkered down in the Shah-e-Kot range had been killed by waves of bombing and ground fire that was continuing.

US military officers at Bagram air base north of Kabul spoke optimistically about having the operation wrapped up in a few more days.

Estimates of the opposition fighters targeted ranged from more than 500 to as many as 800 holed up with their families in the rugged icy terrain. They had been pelted with more than 450 bombs since the offensive began Friday night.

"They've got two choices: either give up or get killed," said Lt. Col. Walter Piatt, deputy chief of staff of the 10th Mountain Division at Bagram air base north of Kabul.

Five Marine Corps attack helicopters entered the fight Tuesday to bolster the aerial strike force after US Army Apaches were damaged by intense fighting Monday.

Hostile fire Monday brought down one Chinook helicopter and damaged another, killing seven US troops—the worst casualty toll in a single offensive operation of the 5-month-old war.

Near the front, Afghan commanders sent fresh troops for a new push against the fugitives, nearly all of whom were believed to be al-Qaida members. The new Afghan units were coming from Paktia province as well as Logar province to the north and Ghazi province to the west.

"There are 5,000 soldiers collecting in Shah-e-Kot for a final offensive on the al-Qaida to finish them off," said Comdr. Ismail Khan, who brought in extra soldiers from his base in Jaji, northeast of Gardez.

"It will be the final push," he said Wednesday.

US officials have said the coalition of troops fighting in Operation Anaconda number about 2,000, divided almost equally between US and Afghan troops. Special operations forces from six Allied nations are also deployed.

US officials returning from the front Wednesday predicted the offensive would be wrapped up soon, thanks to increased fire power and progressing ground operations.

"I think really in a couple of days it will be over," said Maj. Ignacio Perez of the 101st Airborne Division.

Infantry forces inching up the sheer mountain side had entered at least one cave hideout—where they found a stash of weapons and documents—and were searching more, US officials said.

"The infantry is clearing caves and ridge lines," of al-Qaida and Taliban fighters, said Maj. Bryan Hilfery, spokesperson for the 10th Mountain Division at Bagram.

"They're very tenacious, but there's a lot of us too," he said Wednesday.

Brig. Gen. John Rosa told reporters at the Pentagon that the cave-side trove of weapons included mortars, rocket-propelled grenade rounds, small arms. Elsewhere, US troops found more weapons and ammunition, as well as foreign driver's licenses and foreign passports," he said.

Operation Anaconda was launched Friday in a 155-sq. km. area south of the provincial capital, Gardez, to rout hundreds of enemy fighters believed to have regrouped after the Taliban fell last Dec. 7 from their spiritual base in Kandahar.

The operation has involved pounding the targets from the air while encircling the mountain range with hundreds of ground troops to prevent any fighters from fleeing. US officials have reported only a small number of detainees, however.

Neither the former Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar nor al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden was believed to be in the Shah-e-Kot area. **AP**

TROOPS from Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) jump out of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter on a hilltop near Sirkankel on March 5.

REUTERS

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Conspiracy theories abound on India's religious riots

AHMEDABAD, India—The day after the deadly train fire that ignited Hindu-Muslim violence in western India, local authorities blamed the attack on a railroad platform fracas among angry Muslim tea vendors and slogan-chanting Hindus.

Nearly a week later, conspiracy theories abound about who was behind the assault, which claimed 58 Hindu lives and set off riots and attacks that left more than 500 people dead, most of them Muslims.

Indian officials, as they often do, hinted at a Pakistan link to the train fire in Godhra on Feb. 27. Other Indians wondered if Islamic militants had a hidden hand in lighting the fire.

Islamic Pakistan has denied involvement and called on India to stop the killings of Muslims, who are a minority in India. What appears clear is that Hindus and Muslims in this western desert state don't blame their neighbors, even though they may have turned on them in anger or fled them in fear.

They blame religious extremists and outside influences.

"All this, blame the Hindu and Muslim fundamentalists," said Satish Aggarwal, a Hindu whose milk shop survived the riots. "We blame the Muslims in Godhra for starting it. But we know the ISI (Pakistan's intelligence service) was behind that."

Aggarwal, surveying the damage in his community in Ahmedabad, the commercial capital of Gujarat state, was expressing a common belief held by Indians: Pakistan and its Inter-Services Intelligence spy agency, ISI, is behind many of their woes.

"The needle of suspicion" pointed to some "outside terrorist outfit," said India's Home Minister L.K. Advani. **AP**

Israeli troops launch new assault on Gaza

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—Israel shelled Palestinian targets by land, air and sea Wednesday in retaliation for a Palestinian rocket attack on an Israeli town, and seven Palestinians, including three civilians, were killed in one of the most intense Israeli assaults on the Gaza Strip in 17 months of fighting.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's home in Gaza City and a UN-run school for the blind were severely damaged in the air strikes. The blasts blew out windows and collapsed a back wall in Arafat's home. Arafat's wife and daughter live abroad.

In a West Bank village, three Palestinian school students were wounded when Israeli soldiers fired toward villagers throwing stones at an Israeli convoy, the principal said. Two of the students, ages 12 and 16, were seriously wounded, he said. The army said the Israeli convoy came under fire.

The Israeli strike against Gaza came several hours after Palestinians fired two unguided Qassam rockets late Tuesday, hitting an Israeli town for the first time.

One missile struck an apartment building in the Israeli town of Sderot near Gaza. An infant was moderately wounded and another child lightly hurt. "Nothing is the same as it was before," Sderot Mayor Eli Moyal told Israel Radio. "Now children cannot play peacefully in their yards here."

Israel's security Cabinet on Tuesday reaffirmed a decision to carry out relentless military strikes against Palestinian targets in response to a sharp increase in Palestinian attacks on Israelis in recent days. In the past week, one of the bloodiest since violence erupted in September 2000, 66 people have died on the Palestinian side and 29 on the Israeli side.

The Cabinet also decided to tighten travel restrictions further, banning Palestinian traffic on most West Bank roads. The government said Prime Minister Ariel Sharon postponed next week's to Spain and England "in light of recent events." *AP*

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WORLDBRIEFS

Condit loses

LOS ANGELES—Falling victim to scandal and a former aide, Gary Condit was trounced in the Democratic congressional primary, while conservative businessman Bill Simon upset the moderate former mayor of Los Angeles to win the Republican gubernatorial nomination. Simon, a political newcomer, rocketed from obscurity in the campaign's final weeks to overtake Richard Riordan, long considered a shoo-in to face Gov. Gray Davis in November. Davis, running nearly unopposed, easily won the Democratic nomination as nearly two-thirds of California's voters didn't cast ballots. "Our party comes out of this strong campaign ready to do battle across the board with our eyes fixed on the future," Simon said during a victory speech few would have predicted three months ago. *AP*

Spacesuit leakage

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida—Spacewalking astronauts prepped the Hubble Space Telescope for its riskiest surgery yet: a power-unit replacement that has been likened to a heart transplant. If the operation fails, the $2-billion-plus telescope could be crippled or rendered useless. "Any major surgery entails a certain degree of risk," cautioned Hubble's project scientist, Dave Leckrone. Surgery was scheduled for Wednesday morning during the third spacewalk in as many days for space shuttle Columbia's astronauts. It had to be delayed for a few hours, however, because of an unusual spacesuit problem. Astronaut John Grunsfeld's spacewalking suit began leaking water early Wednesday from its undergarment cooling system, probably because of a popped valve. His crewmates quickly mopped up the mess with towels. The leakage was confined to the suit; no water dripped onto Columbia's air lock. *AP*

Price of abuse

NEW YORK—Sexual misconduct by Roman Catholic priests has cost the church in lost faith and broken lives. Yet the damage from the scandals has been financial as well as spiritual. Dioceses have sold land and buildings to pay off multimillion-dollar settlements. Some have borrowed heavily from other dioceses or their own parishes. Insurers have limited coverage, while bishops have quietly paid thousands of dollars in therapy costs for abusive priests and their victims. The nationwide financial toll of the wrongdoing is not known, since most settlements are confidential. Estimates of payouts to victims range from $300 million up to $1 billion. Whatever the number, the experiences of individual dioceses indicate the impact has been significant—and could be similar in the Archdiocese of Boston, now struggling through the latest scandal. The Diocese of Santa Rosa, California, had to sell property and take loans or donations of at least $7 million from about half the nation's 192 dioceses to help erase a $16-million debt related to sexual misconduct. The Diocese of Dallas had to mortgage and sell property to pay $11 million that its insurance didn't cover in the more than $30-million settlement against pedophile and former priest Rudy Kos. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico, was brought to the brink of bankruptcy, and had to borrow from parish savings accounts to pay more than $50 million to settle 40 abuse cases in the 1990s. The diocese settled a total of 165 such cases, but won't say how much it paid to resolve them. *AP*

Anti-abortion laws

DUBLIN, Ireland—Ireland's divided electorate faced a barrage of last-minute appeals Tuesday as a referendum loomed on outlawing the threat of suicide as a grounds for an abortion. The proposed constitutional amendment, if approved in Wednesday's vote, would overturn a decade-old Supreme Court ruling that abortions could be granted to suicidal women. But it would permit abortions in cases where continued pregnancy could kill a woman, thereby softening the blanket ban on abortion contained in the Constitution of this predominantly Catholic country. Mission Control instructed Grunsfeld to get out of his wet spacesuit top and put on another. Managers decided to proceed with the power-unit replacement as planned, even though the delay was sure to result in an extremely long workday for the astronauts. *AP*

Islamic twin dolls

TEHRAN, Iran—Iran on Tuesday introduced its answer to Barbie and Ken, boy and girl twin dolls who promote traditional values with their modest clothing and pro-family back stories. The Dara and Sara dolls were developed and are being marketed by the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, a government agency affiliated with the Ministry of Education. They are widely seen as an effort to counter the American dolls and accessories that have flooded the Iranian market, though Institute director Mohsen Chiniforoushan said at a news conference Tuesday that that was not the main goal. *AP*

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St.,Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.webling.com

Nacorda witnesses bare death threats

**By Julie S. Alipala
and Allan A. Nawal**
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LAMITAN, Basilan—Five of the vital witnesses of Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, who has exposed an alleged collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf, have gone missing.

But Nacorda presumed they are just in hiding.

"Three of them reported to me that there were attempts to silence them," the priest, who had been taken hostage by the Abu Sayyaf bandits, told the INQUIRER.

Nacorda said two of the witnesses have received death threats after they testified in a congressional inquiry into his charges about seven months ago.

He fears that the disappearance of the witnesses could affect the ongoing investigation aimed at establishing whether some military commanders received money in exchange for the escape of the bandits from this town on June 2.

Nacorda lamented that the unwillingness of the government to help the witnesses has contributed much to their fear of being harmed.

"(Until now), none of my witnesses is under the government's witness protection program," he said.

But three other witnesses, including two physicians of the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital here, were decided to provide testimonies during the reopening of the Senate hearing on Nacorda's allegations today.

"I hope this time, with the testimonies of Sen. Sergio Osmeña, our quest for truth will be answered," Nacorda said.

He said he was optimistic "a decisive and fair results or conclusions (would) be achieved."

In a related development, a senior Abu Sayyaf leader based in Basilan said the cooperation between the Philippine government and the United States does not pose any danger to the continued existence of the bandit group.

Responding to written questions sent on March 1 by Evan Williams of the Australian Television's Foreign Correspondent program, the bandit leader, who introduced himself as Abu Nidal, said no superpower could annihilate the Abu Sayyaf.

Williams allowed the INQUIRER to use the transcript of the interview.

"It's not a problem for us at all if they bring all their firepower and technology. They are not God. Only Allah is the Supreme," Abu Nidal, 35, a senior aide to Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani, said.

Nidal said the Abu Sayyaf was not afraid to confront the Americans at any given time, especially if Islamic laws are threatened.

"We will not stop fighting until Islamic law is implemented here in Mindanao because the Muslims are the original settlers here," he said.

He said that in case the campaign against them succeeded at some point, the Abu Sayyaf would continue to exist because "there are a lot of people behind us."

"Let's say a lot of us have been martyred but there are still many young ones who will follow in our footsteps," Nidal said.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon and Samar will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy. source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi33° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 24° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 16°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 19°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 23° Lo 18°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/03/07/02

ROUNDUP

Killer gets life term

CAUAYAN CITY—A judge here found a man guilty of killing his neighbor two years ago and sentenced him to life imprisonment. Judge Raul Babaran also ordered Joel Bulusan to pay P50,000 to the family of Adriano Viloria and P108,900 in damages. Bulusan's companion, Leodevico Ubod, was acquitted after he served as state witness. Babaran said Bulusan was found guilty of hacking to death Viloria, who was sleeping in his house on June 6, 2000. Viloria's body was dumped in an uninhabited place in the city where searchers found it after 17 days.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Albay student killed

MALINAO, Albay—A graduating student of the Balza National High School here was killed by a 42-year-old suspect after she resisted his attempt to rape her Saturday night in Barangay Sta. Elena, this town. Police said the suspect, Ernesto Narsabal Jr., of the same village, admitted that he killed the victim but denied raping her. He said he was drunk at that time and smashed the victim's head on a concrete wall. He asked for forgiveness from the victim's family.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Gen. Vicente Lim honored

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police officers and relatives of Brig. Gen. Vicente Lim Sr., after which this camp was named, honored the police hero in simple rites recently on the occasion of his 114th death anniversary. Vicente Lim Jr., guest of honor and speaker of the affair, urged the policemen and firemen to live up to the ideals of his father. He recalled the heroics and exploits of his father during his stint in the government.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Marijuana seized in Ormoc

TACLOBAN CITY—Police seized on Saturday 45 pots of marijuana inside a sugarcane plantation in Sitio Picas, Barangay Lilo-an, Ormoc City, about 10 kilometers from the city proper. Reports reaching the regional police headquarters in Camp Ruperto Kangleon in Palo, Leyte, said the plantation is suspected to be owned by Nestor Yuhico, a resident of the area. The police failed to arrest Yuhico, as he was not present during the raid.

Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Ex-vice mayor yield

BACOLOD CITY—Former Bacolod City vice mayor and Bombo Radyo broadcaster Alex Alvarez Paglumotan surrendered Tuesday to Supt. Amado Marquez at the Bacolod City Police Office to start serving his 60-day sentence that was affirmed by the Supreme Court. Paglumotan, together with Frank Palma (now deceased) and Sonny Cañete Flores were found guilty of double slight physical injuries for the mauling of Stephen Moreno and Vicente Magbanua on June 6, 1996 at the parking lot of the Hall of Justice in Bacolod City.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

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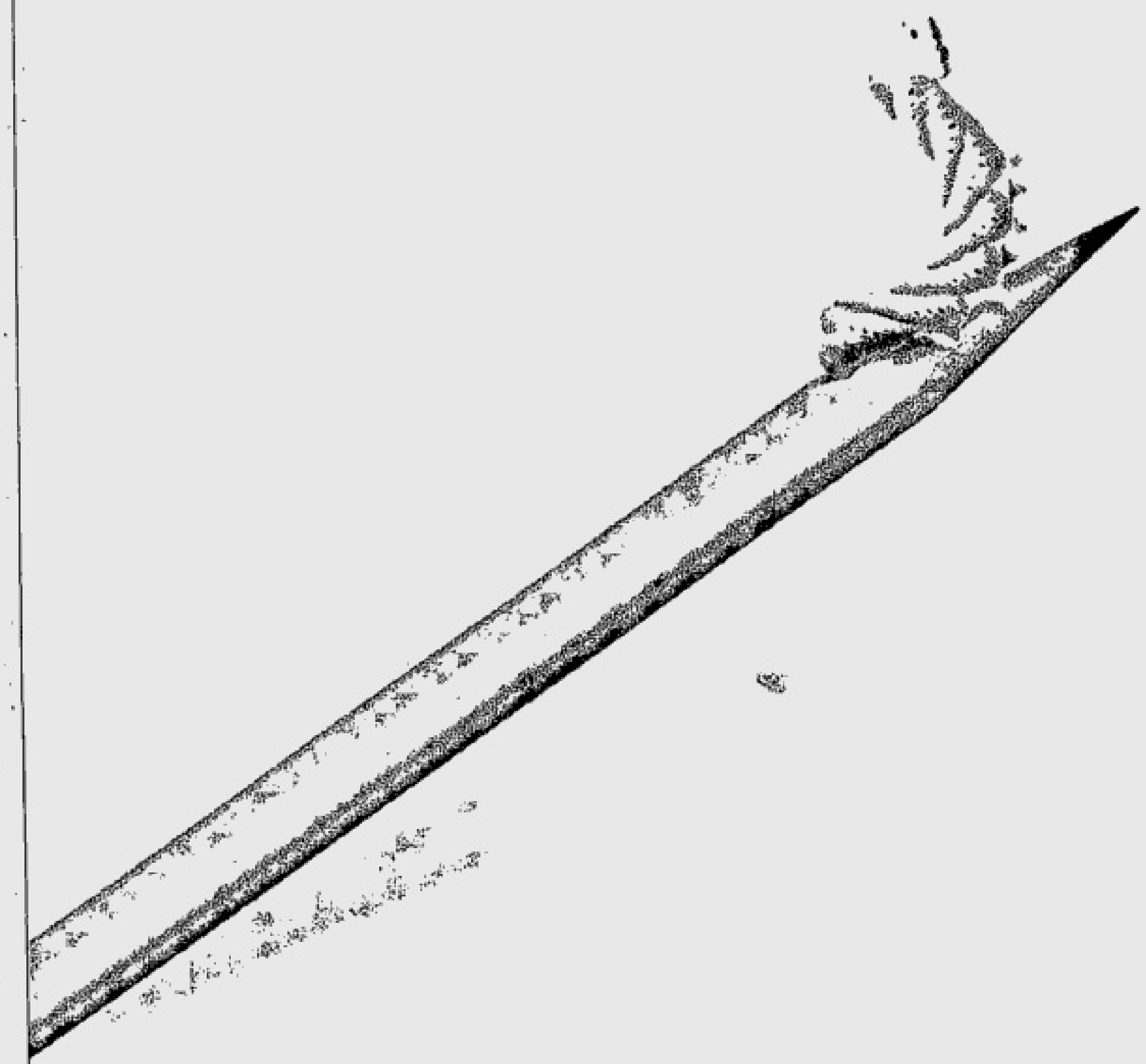

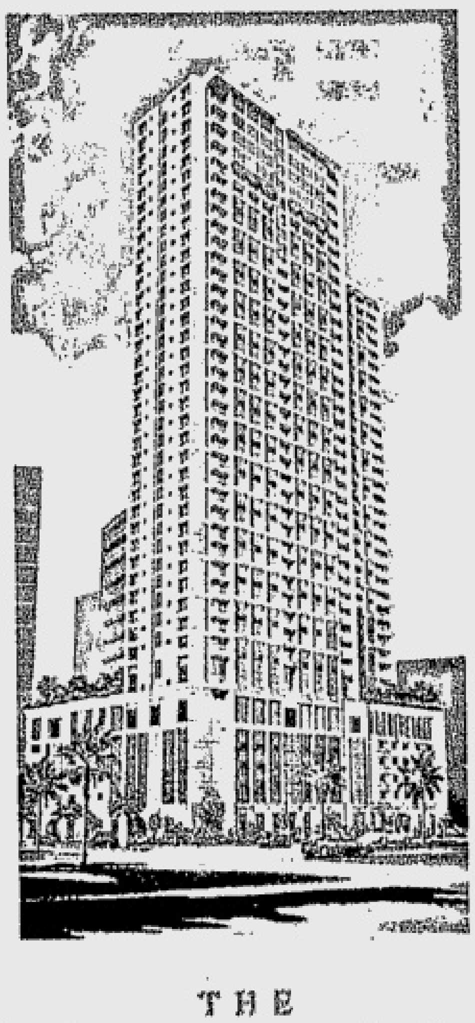

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Top NPA leader in N. Mindanao slain

By Franklin A. Caliguid and Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SURIGAO CITY—A top New People's Army leader in Northern Mindanao was killed after the rebels launched an attack on Feb. 22 in Barangay Mayag, Sison, Surigao del Norte.

Lt. Col. Francisco Simbajon, spokesperson of the Army's 402nd Infantry Brigade based in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, said Abelardo Magpatoc, alias "Ka Nards," was killed during the encounter. Magpatoc was earlier identified as Mario Castro.

Called "the Gregorio Rosal of Northern Mindanao" after the communist spokesperson based in Southern Tagalog, Magpatoc was killed by soldiers of the 20th Infantry Battalion's Bravo Company.

The government forces were firing back at the rebel group, which staged the early morning attack. One militiaman was wounded.

Simbajon described Magpatoc's death as a "great loss" to the communist movement in the region. "His death had weakened the morale and determination of the communist fighting force," he said.

The NPA Northern Mindanao regional command refused to comment when the INQUIRER sought clarification on the military's claim.

Insp. Vimellee Madrid, spokesperson of the Caraga police, said Magpatoc was listed as Northern Mindanao's most wanted man and carried a bounty of more than P100,000.

He was blamed for a series of atrocities committed against civilians and was allegedly involved in criminal activities.

In General Santos City, five NPA guerrillas surrendered to authorities on Monday, yielding their firearms.

They were identified as Emiliano Llanos, alias Dino; Annaliza Llanos, alias Joyjoy; Glenn Villarosa, alias Jumper; Angelito Avilla, alias Kevin; and Edwin Manlunas, alias Juliet.

They claimed that they were forced to go out of hiding because of hardship and hunger.

They said they belonged to the NPA's Front Committee 71 operating in Sarangani and South Cotabato. The unit is led by Commander Brigol, they said.

Senior Supt. Cesar Daquil, provincial police chief, said the papers of the rebels were being processed so that they can avail themselves of the government's amnesty and *balik-baril* programs.

Chavit says Erap antics could mean he's quitting

Singson

LAOAG CITY—Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson has described former President Estrada's antics to shift his legal battle into the public arena as similar to a "boxer who's about to throw in the towel" because of imminent defeat.

Singson, the ousted president's former drinking and gambling buddy, said Estrada is taking a different tack because he knows he is about to lose in the criminal trial for plunder.

"*Kumbaga sa boksing, ayoko na, dinadaya n'yo ako* (Like in boxing, he's quitting because he feels he's being cheated)," Singson, referring to Estrada's firing of his lawyers last week.

Estrada had claimed the government was deliberately putting an end to the cases filed against him by creating a special court to hear them.

Singson said the speedy trial of Estrada's cases could only work to the advantage of the former president if he were innocent.

"But he knows a defeat is in the offing. Thus, he is quitting the battle in the courts," he said.

Singson also asked the government to stop Estrada from going on exile or having a knee surgery in the United States.

He said Estrada would not return to the country once he sets foot on a foreign land.

"Allowing him to leave the country will only result in a more chaotic situation. Estrada will stand on his ground that he is still the president (once he in a foreign land)," Singson said.

Singson was here on Monday to welcome President Macapagal-Arroyo, who held a dialogue with students of the Mariano Marcos State University.

He said Estrada is no longer capable of drawing the crowd to start another uprising similar to last year's May 1 siege of Malacañang by his supporters.

"Estrada has lost much of his popularity. His supporters can have all the planning they want (to stage another uprising) but that will remain a plan," he said.

Singson said the Macapagal administration will make sure that an "Edsa IV" will not materialize.

Asked whether he had any sympathy left for his former friend now that Estrada has been jailed, Singson said: "He is not yet convicted. Once he gets convicted, then that's the time I can cast pity on him."

Singson also advised Estrada to listen only to himself instead of relying on the advice of politicians around him whose motive, he said, is to use him for their personal gains.

"Estrada knows the gravity of his cases. He must quit playing games. It's time he thinks about himself," Singson said. ***Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Clash of Red rivals feared in Zambales; cops on alert

By Cesar Villa
PDI Central Luzon Desk

IBA, Zambales—Military and police personnel in the province were placed on alert following intelligence reports that a clash between two factions of the communist movement operating in Zambales could erupt anytime.

Reports reaching members of the Regional Intelligence Unit (RIU) and police officials in Subic, Castillejos and San Marcelino towns said the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan (RHB) and the Josepino Corpuz Command of the New People's Army are fighting each other on all fronts.

The disagreement reportedly centers on "propaganda, progressive taxation and liquidation operations."

Information provided by the RIU showed that the RHB unit, operating under one "Ka Melan," has 250 regular fighters with about 1,000 reserve members. The group has 30 high-powered firearms and other weapons.

Intelligence reports said the group was behind the slaying of SP03 Aquilino Manuel of the Subic police; Federico Bonilla, village chief of Calapandayan in Subic, and his bodyguard Virgilio Fernandez; and Eliseo Tala, aide of former Olongapo City Mayor Amelia Gordon.

In a letter sent to the INQUIRER, Ka Melan said his group's "fallen targets" were alleged suppliers of illegal drugs and protectors of illicit businesses like prostitution.

Subic, Castillejos and San Marcelino are controlled by the RHB, the RIU said.

A military report showed that the Josepino Corpuz Command, led by Teofilo Salazar alias Ka Dino, has at least 50 high-powered firearms.

The report also said more than 300 communist rebels gathered last January in Sta. Cruz town, near the tri-boundaries of Zambales, Pangasinan and Tarlac.

Rebel leaders reportedly urged their members to adopt a "dog-eat-dog" policy against those whom they described as "pseudo members" of the underground movement.

The report, however, did not specify the faction of the communist movement that held the meeting in Sta. Cruz.

Kin of NPA hostages appeal to NDF leaders

AIDA Rosete shows a picture of her husband, Marine Sgt. Jeremias Rosete, who has been held "prisoner of war" by communist rebels in Sultan Kudarat province.
BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

COTABATO CITY—The wife and daughter of New People's Army captive Marine Sgt. Jeremias Rosete have appealed to the communist-led National Democratic Front to free him for humanitarian reason.

In a taped message sent to radio dxMS here, Aida Rosete and her eldest daughter Rosemarie also appealed to the NPA leaders to free Rosete and three others, including a woman.

Maj. Romeo Ucag, chief of the Civil Relations Group for South-Central Mindanao, said a letter of appeal was already sent to local NPA leaders.

"The tape message and the letter will hopefully help make the loved ones of the captives happy," Ucag said.

"Allowing the captives to come home will help build confidence between the government and the communists," he said.

The rebels seized Rosete, Herminia Sorongon, Wilfredo Maldazir and Pepito Simbulan in Columbio, Sultan Kudarat, on Sept. 5, 2001 on suspicion of being government spies.

"Jeremias has been a good husband to me. He has never been involved (in) illegal acts," Aida Rosete said in her appeal.

"Jeremias and the three others are not spies. They went to the NPA to offer the government's peace and reconciliation program," she said in Filipino.

Aida said she has no other means of livelihood and that the family depends on his earnings as a government servant.

Rosemarie also appealed to the NPA to release her father. "He was negotiating for the surrender of some NPA rebels who wanted to live normal lives. He is not a spy," she said.

But the appeal might have been too late.

"I was told, a court martial has been scheduled any day now," according to Gregorio Rosal, alias Ka Roger, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Interviewed over radio station dzRH in Manila, Rosal said the CPP-NPA-NDF in Southern-Mindanao would provide the captives with counsels.

"Whatever the decision, it would be carried out soon against the prisoners of war," Rosal said.

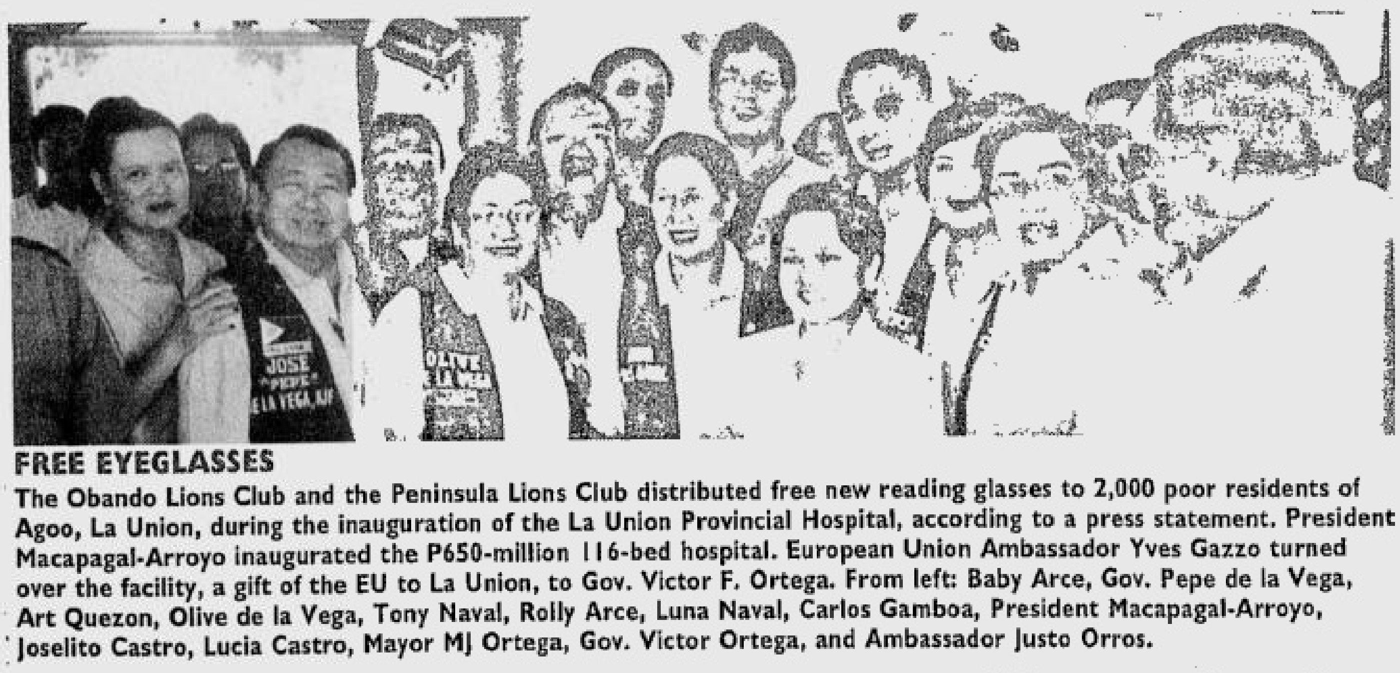
Rosete and his companions were supposed to be freed last year after the government agreed to suspend military operations against the communist rebels in the boundary of Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Davao del Sur.

But Rosal said the military offensive was ongoing. "The government and the military broke their promise," he said.

"If the court finds Rosete and the others innocent, they will walk to freedom," Rosal said. He did not say when the court martial would begin its hearings.

In Davao City, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte offered to help facilitate the release of the hostages.

"I don't know if I can punch a line here, But I will try to reach out to the CPP's Jose Maria Sison. I will also try to talk with Defense Secretary (Angelo) Reyes or Col. (Felipe) Berroya or (Southern Command chief) General (Roy) Cimatu. I need time," Duterte told Rosete's wife. ***Edwin O. Fernandez, with a report from Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***


JOSE "PEPE" DE LA VEGA
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FREE EYEGLASSES

The Obando Lions Club and the Peninsula Lions Club distributed free new reading glasses to 2,000 poor residents of Agoo, La Union, during the inauguration of the La Union Provincial Hospital, according to a press statement. President Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated the P650-million 116-bed hospital. European Union Ambassador Yves Gazzo turned over the facility, a gift of the EU to La Union, to Gov. Victor F. Ortega. From left: Baby Arce, Gov. Pepe de la Vega, Art Quezon, Olive de la Vega, Tony Naval, Rolly Arce, Luna Naval, Carlos Gamboa, President Macapagal-Arroyo, Joselito Castro, Lucia Castro, Mayor MJ Ortega, Gov. Victor Ortega, and Ambassador Justo Orros.

DPWH regional chief linked to corruption 'grounded'

LEGAZPI CITY—Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong has ordered Elino Colinares, regional director of the Department of Public Works and Highways, "grounded" while an investigation against him for alleged irregularities and corruption, among other charges, is being undertaken.

In his order, Datumanong asked Colinares to turn over his position to assistant regional director Rolando Roces as officer in charge, and to report immediately to the office of Undersecretary Manuel Bonoan at the DPWH central office for assignment.

Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis, in a recent privileged speech in the House of Representatives, accused Colinares of irregularities and corruption, including allegedly receiving money from contractors.

Solis hailed Datumanong's immediate action.

The INQUIRER called up Colinares at the DPWH regional office but his staff said he was in Metro Manila.

In several radio interviews he gave earlier, Colinares denied the accusations of Solis and his other detractors in the region, including contractors and local executives. ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

11 Puerto Princesa officials face graft charges

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Mayor Dennis Socrates, Vice Mayor Fernando Batul, and nine other city officials are facing graft charges before the Ombudsman for allegedly entering into a joint venture agreement with a private cooperative that is disadvantageous to the city government.

Alfred Sy, a former cockpit manager, filed the case before the Nationwatch, an Ombudsman-deputized group here.

According to Sy, the city suffered losses when the mayor entered into an agreement with the Palawan Cockbreeders Multi-purpose Cooperative to run the city cockpit.

He said the "city government lost thousands of pesos in rental franchise fee, amusement taxes and control of the management of the Puerto Princesa Sports Complex."

Other respondents in the complaint are Councilors Feliberto Oliveros III, Filomeno Vergara, Gregorio Austria, Rebecca Labit, Nezario Awat, Rudolph Baladad, Telesforo Paredes, Reynaldo Vigonte and city legal officer and acting information officer Allen Ross Rodriguez.

Rodriguez dismissed the allegations as politically motivated, saying Sy used to run the cockpit under the previous administration, renting it for P50,000 a month.

When Socrates was elected last year, he said, an agreement was formed with the cock breeders cooperative to jointly run the cockpit under a 50-50 sharing scheme, but in no case will the city get less than P60,000 monthly.

"In effect, the provisions in the contact are not disadvantageous because we get more taxes from it," Rodriguez said.

In a news release sent to the INQUIRER, Sy said the city could have fetched P70,000 a month in rental for the new franchise, the franchise free and about P15,000 per week in amusement taxes.

But Rodriguez said last December, the city got P148,000 as its share in cockpit operations, and in January, it received P60,000.

Rodriguez noted that the case before the Ombudsman is the same one filed with the court last November by Sy's treasurer, Eduardo Ustares.

Ustares, through a taxpayer's suit, asked for the annulment of the agreement on the ground that he suffered "irreparable" damage and injury when the city entered into it without a bidding process.

According to Rodriguez, there is no taxpayer suit present because there was no disbursement of public funds and the bidding was foregone because the city entered into an economic enterprise.

After the court junked the city's motion to dismiss, a motion for reconsideration was filed. It now awaits hearing.

"The case has already passed through five judges," Rodriguez claimed.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon
Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◆ Bureau Chief **Floreño G. Solmirano**

Mt. Banahaw: Mystical trip no longer free

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Dolores, Quezon

WITH the advent of the Holy Week, thousands of pilgrims will again trek the mystical mountain of Mt. Banahaw, passing by the sleepy town of Dolores, Quezon.

But they will be in for a surprise. The spiritual nature trip is no longer free.

Pilgrims will now be required to pay fees before they can set foot on the mountain's hallowed ground.

As to who will implement this scheme remains the bone of contention between the town's officials and members of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) tasked with safeguarding the area.

Banahaw is one of the largest inactive volcanoes in the Philippines and a mecca for thousands of devotees, especially during the Lenten season. It straddles the towns of Lucban, Tayabas, Sariaya, Candelaria and Dolores in Quezon; and the towns of Rizal, Nagcarlan, Liliw and Majayjay, and San Pablo City in Laguna.

During a recent meeting of officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at their office in Pagbilao, Manny Calayag, municipal environment and natural resources officer, informed the PAMB about the planned collection of fees by the municipal government.

Visitors will have to register and pay the fees at Barangay Kinabuhayan at the foot of Banahaw.

Polluters' pay

Calayag showed a copy of Municipal Ordinance No. 88-2001 that requires all visitors to Mt. Banahaw de Dolores National Park to pay P5 as conservation fee, P20 as camping fee, P50-P100 as camp site fee (three days and two nights stay), and an optional fee of P50 for a certificate of conquest.

A resident of Dolores is exempted from payment, provided he or she has a residence certificate for the current year.

The ordinance also spelled out the corresponding punishment for every violation.

"We will start the collection in the coming days," he said.

Calayag claimed that the municipal ordinance was based on an inherent right vested on every local government unit under the Local Government Code.

"The collected fees will be spent for the mountain preservation and protection program, especially after every pilgrimage season," he said.

Objection

The PAMB thinks otherwise.

The board officials said they should be the ones to undertake the collection of fees purposely for the preservation and development of the protected area.

Armando Rotaquio, DENR-Quezon chief and PAMB chair, said, "It is my personal opinion that it should be the PAMB."

He showed a copy of the legal opinion by the DENR undersecretary for legal affairs, which stressed that the local government has no power to levy and collect entrance fees in an area being administered by the PAMB.

"But we will communicate with Dolores officials to settle the issue. Anyway, both of us have the goodness of intention for the protection and preservation of Banahaw," Rotaquio said.

The PAMB, in a resolution adopted last year, also explained that the collection of fees is not only for the entry of individual visitors but for all vehicles going into the mountain as well.

The use of comfort rooms in strategic spots of the protected area and entrance to other facilities will also require payment.

The use of any part of the protected area for filmmaking entails payment of P3,000 a day.

Those who will conduct research within the mountain's premises have to shell out P100 for every day of study. The PAMB earlier denied a request of an ABS-CBN television crew to waive the fees in shooting one of the episodes of its program inside the protected area.

DEVOTEES, as well as mountaineers, flock to Mt. Banahaw for the Lenten rituals.
FILE PHOTO/MIKE ALQUINTO

Garbage

Calayag complained of the destruction left by most pilgrims on the mountain's ecosystem.

"Every year, tons of garbage are left by (trekkers) that could affect the mountain's watershed, which is our source of water," he said.

Jun Lontok, chair of the non-government Luntiang Alyansa sa Bundok Banahaw, disclosed that based on his group's latest record, Banahaw played host to some 300,000 pilgrims in 1996.

"They were mountaineers, religious pilgrims, and thrill-seekers from the big city," he said.

He said his group was able to collect at least 150 tons of garbage last year, based on its conservative estimate of a half kilo of garbage from every mountain visitor.

Batangas City falls dying, losing grandeur

By Mei Magsino
Batangas City

THE TINGGA Falls, considered to be the Pagsanjan Falls of Batangas City for its historic cave and clear water, is losing its grandeur and dying.

What was once pure water spilling down the cliff is now a murky, foul-smelling blend of wastes coming from pig and poultry farms in nearby San Jose town and Lipa City.

"Since 1994, we have noticed the falls slowly deteriorating," said Juanito Hernandez, chair of Barangay Tingga Labac where the erstwhile scenic spot is found.

The Iniwi River, which ends at the falls and flows through the nearby towns, has been used as waste channel by piggery and poultry businesses that boomed in the 1990s.

Mayor Eduardo Dimacuha said that despite the city government's efforts to clean up the waterway, the water pollution continues.

"The Tingga Falls is at the receiving end of wastes coming from the pig and poultry farms in the upland areas," Dimacuha said. "We are doing our best, through the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro), to save the falls."

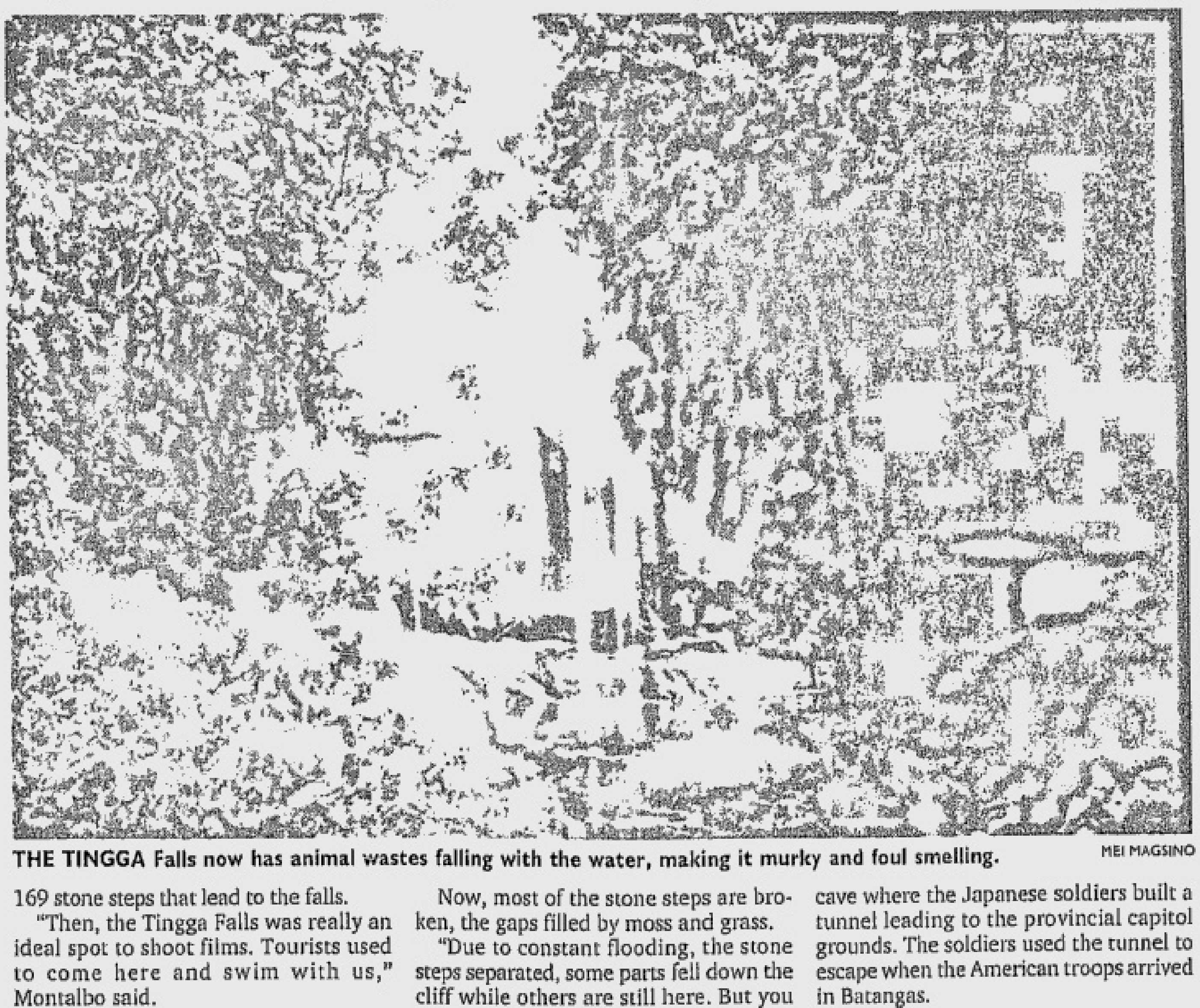
Movie background

In 1975, the Tingga Falls served as a backdrop for several scenes in the movie titled "Hugasan mo ng Putik ang Dugo," which starred Lorna Tolentino, Christopher de Leon, Eddie Garcia and Johnny Delgado.

"Lorna Tolentino stood here in her bikini, with the falls in the background. It was really breathtaking," said Policarpio Montalbo, a *tanod* of Tingga Labac, as he recalled how the movie scenes were shot in the falls.

Popular film actress Nora Aunor visited the falls in 1970, Montalbo said. A foreign film was also shot there, he said.

What the residents vividly remember was Tolentino's movie and the many times she would stop to rest in the middle of the 169 stone steps that lead to the falls.


THE TINGGA Falls now has animal wastes falling with the water, making it murky and foul smelling.
MEI MAGSINO

"Then, the Tingga Falls was really an ideal spot to shoot films. Tourists used to come here and swim with us," Montalbo said.

Residents of nearby Barangays Alangilan, Balagtas and Soro-soro would also come to swim, do their laundry and enjoy a picnic.

No more stone steps

In 1944, American troops who came to liberate Batangas City from Japanese forces discovered the Tingga Falls and found its potentials as a tourist spot.

The US military's engineering brigade erected the 169 stone steps on the trail to the falls. Benches were set up along the way as rest areas for travelers.

Now, most of the stone steps are broken, the gaps filled by moss and grass.

"Due to constant flooding, the stone steps separated, some parts fell down the cliff while others are still here. But you have to dig them if you want to see what's left of the 169 stone steps," Montalbo said.

Descending to the falls now requires the skill of a mountain climber who must keep balance to avoid slipping from the narrow and steep grassy trail into the deep cliff.

Water supply

The Americans also tapped the falls as source of water. They built a tank on the left side to supply the entire village with running water.

At the farther end of the falls is the cave where the Japanese soldiers built a tunnel leading to the provincial capitol grounds. The soldiers used the tunnel to escape when the American troops arrived in Batangas.

Montalbo said flood brought about by strong rain destroyed the tunnel.

"We want to bring back the Tingga Falls that used to be our playground," Dimacuha said. "We owe it to the youth and the next generation. But this would require a lot of money and cooperation from the nearby towns. It's now time that their local government start a program for proper waste management."

The Cenro has conducted a preliminary inspection of the pollutants in the falls, which flows to the city's Calumpang River.

P. Princesa holds founding rites without swimsuit tilt

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
Puerto Princesa City

IN PRE-WAR Puerto Princesa, time dragged its feet ever so slowly. A year seemed forever, and drudgery was the usual order each day. Celebrations and festivals were so few and far between."

This was how Beth Clark, one of the city's all-time beauties, recalled the time when the Japanese came to conquer the Princess of Ports, which later became Puerto Princesa.

In her recollection of the war years published in a book titled "Puerto Princesa during the Second World War," Clark said people were in a state of confusion and panic.

When news about the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 8, 1941 broke out, Clark, then 14 years old, was at the park watching the festivities for the feast of its patron saint, the Immaculate Conception.

"Puerto Princesa was in a festive mood. Bicycle races, *palo sebo*, and hitting the pot were favorites. Stage shows, public dances with a beauty queen besides," she narrated.

This time, she might not be present at the park to see another historical festivity unfold, but it will remind her of the good old days as Puerto Princesa celebrated its 130th founding anniversary.

On March 4, the controversial search for Miss Puerto Princesa took place.

Under the evening stars and the shy moon, candidates as young as Clark was during the Japanese occupation paraded in front of a very expectant audience.

First time

There was no more swimsuit competition, the first time in the history of the pageant.

The issue of "taking off" the swimsuit of the candidates has created unfavorable response from residents. They said a pageant was not so without flesh baring, but the city administration thinks otherwise.

What is important for the pageant is the talent and the intelligence of a woman and not her body, Mayor Dennis Socrates said.

After seeing the pageant that was choreographed by former Bayanihan dancer and now Palawan Dance Theater head Jay Loyola, the mayor could only say, "the ladies did very well without having to wear swimsuits."

Famous fashion guru Rene Salud made sure the candidates' real beauty emerged when they wore his creations.

Fashion model Eric Matti said that from a male viewpoint, the wearing of a swimsuit in a pageant is a welcome sight but after seeing how the candidates performed, he forgot that there was no swimsuit competition.

Bb. Pilipinas-Universe 2001 Zorayda Ruth Andam also saw it as a non-issue.

'Parada 2002'

The removal of the swimsuit competition was just one of the interesting things that happened during the weeklong anniversary celebration that started on Feb. 26.

Dubbed "Parada 2002," the event highlighted daily cultural presentations and parades, also a first in its history.

The opening featured a "Pungitan" festival. Pungitan is a long-held tradition of the people of Cuyo Island, the first capital of Palawan, where visitors join the residents in street dancing and merry-making with paints on their faces. Nobody is left unscathed with water-based paints.

There were also a *mardi gras* parade, a barangay float competition, a best tricycle display, historical tours for students, a food festival, garden shows, and nightly cultural activities at the people's amphitheater.

A road show featuring the products of every barangay was also a major attraction.

A bit of history

Puerto Princesa became a Spanish settlement on March 4, 1872 when an expedition sent by Queen Isabelle II arrived at the fort.

They saw what appeared to be a hill with a steep declivity and where plenty of mangroves thrived.

On March 10, 1872, Rev. Fr. Ezequiel Moreno said the first Mass atop boxes of food supplies.

The settlement became a center of Spanish naval operations because its natural harbor met all the requirements of the Spanish Navy.

Erap gets 'better lawyers than (his) former counsel'

From page A1

Andres Narvasa, while Jimenez was counsel for the officers and men of the Aviation Security Command and other military witnesses.

Narvasa, who eventually became chief justice, later headed Estrada's defense team at his aborted impeachment trial and has been serving as his legal adviser.

In Sigfrid's stead

The three new appointments were made in the wake of Estrada's rejection of Raymond Fortun's elder brother Sigfrid Fortun as his private de officio counsel.

The court-appointed Sigfrid wrote the Sandiganbayan March 4 asking to be "relieved or excused" on the grounds that he belonged to the same law firm—Fortun Narvasa & Salazar—that Estrada dismissed Feb. 27.

The Sandiganbayan found his reason "not serious and sufficient to merit his prayer." Nevertheless, it "recalled" his appointment "in order not to delay the further proceedings of these cases."

"In his stead," the court designated Jurado, Jimenez and Ongkiko as Estrada's additional counsel de officio, saying they "are known for their competence and probity."

But in a phone interview, Ongkiko said he still had to study the matter, "especially in light of (Estrada's) refusal to any counsel."

"Definitely, I don't want to embarrass former President Estrada and the Sandiganbayan, and I don't want to embarrass myself," Ongkiko said.

He added: "Am I doing the right thing? I will have to think this over carefully. Under normal circumstances, a lawyer is duty-bound to accept (such an appointment) as officer of the court. But this case is not ordinary."

Ongkiko said he and his co-appointees would probably meet today and "decide where we're going."

Asked if he would be able to cope with the thrice-weekly hearings should he accept the appointment, Ongkiko said he had actually managed "four hearings a week, from Monday to Thursday" as lead defense counsel for Hubert Webb in the celebrated Vizconde rape-slay case.

Estrada's original defense team had protested the thrice-weekly schedule, saying it was too much to handle given their other cases.

Guilty

Given Estrada's refusal to work out his legal defense, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said it would be better for the ousted President to plead guilty to the plunder charge.

Perez said such a plea could even result in a sentence lower by one degree for Estrada.

JIMENEZ

ONGKIKO

"If his defense (by government lawyers) is proving to be impossible, it is equivalent to throwing in the towel," Perez told reporters at the Department of Justice yesterday. "He might as well plead guilty because . . . (this will be) a mitigating circumstance."

Later in a phone interview, Perez accused Estrada of using dilatory tactics in refusing to cooperate with the PAO lawyers.

"I can see what he is doing," Perez told the INQUIRER. "In refusing to cooperate with his lawyers, he expects (them to) complain and ask out of the case . . . So you see, he wants this case to drag on."

The justice secretary admitted that "there is not much the government can do" to provide competent legal defense for Estrada, especially after the latter announced that he would withhold from his new lawyers materials relating to his defense.

"All (the new lawyers) can do is ask the Sandiganbayan for copies of the evidence already submitted," Perez said, adding that no one could be compelled by the government to turn over any documentary evidence even if it would be for his own defense.

Perez told reporters that the DOJ would ask the Sandiganbayan to order television and radio stations to refrain from re-airing past interviews with Estrada involving *sub judice* matters or comments contemptuous of the courts.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, for his part, clarified that he did not ask the Sandiganbayan to issue a gag order on Estrada.

"I have been in the media for 14 years already, and I would be the last one to ask for a gag order," Desierto said in a radio interview. "All we are asking the court is to keep Estrada from issuing statements that are either *sub judice* or contemptuous of the court."

Best evidence

State Prosecutor Padilla said they would ask the Supreme Court to allow the public release of the archival video taken so far of Estrada's plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan, "to prove to one and all that he has not been prejudiced."

"The best evidence will be the tapes," Padilla said, referring to the video that the court keeps for its exclusive use, along with audiotapes and transcripts of proceedings.

Since the trial proper of the plunder case began last October, video footage of each hearing has been taken for documentation purposes as part of the guidelines set by the Supreme Court.

The Sandiganbayan has made an arrangement with government-owned TV networks RPN and NBN for the free use of a camera throughout the trial proceedings. The tapes go straight to the court's custody after each hearing.

Padilla also said the prosecution would revive its petition to have the Estrada trial covered live, although the high court had ruled with finality against it.

On the matter of citing the Estrada camp for contempt, Padilla said: "There will be no move to gag the former President or cite him in contempt. It's up to the court. We don't want to make it appear that this is another kind of oppression. We don't want to play up to his plans. We think he really wants to see this problem escalating."

But "it will be different" for Estrada's outspoken ex-lawyers, Padilla said.

He said that while they had an obligation to their client, "first and foremost is their role as officers of the court . . . to protect the dignity of the judicial system."

If they persist despite warnings, he added, "I think it can go further—they should be disbarred." ***With a report from Norman Bordadora***

Pro-GMA solons back resolution for Erap exile

From page A1

want to comment on at this time. It is our duty to receive the resolution and it will be referred to the appropriate committee," De Venecia said.

He said the proposal to exile Estrada would even be taken up at the summit of all political parties scheduled for May 3-5.

De Venecia said 10 political parties would issue a joint declaration about many issues at the summit, including Estrada's case.

De Venecia said the heads of the 10 major political parties met yesterday and agreed to include Estrada's exile in the agenda of the summit.

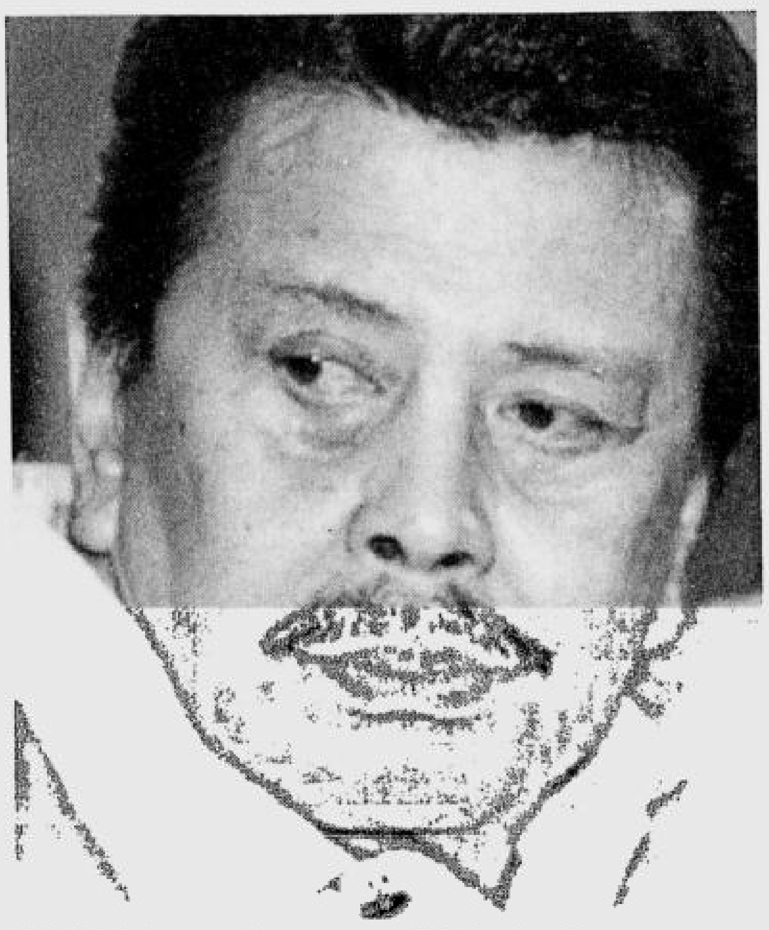
A congressman, who asked not to be named, said there were moves to replace the resolution authored by Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon with a resolution to be sponsored by the opposition. Macarambon belongs to the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), a member of the ruling coalition in the House.

"It's not good that this emanates from the administration. It's better this comes from the opposition," the congressman told the INQUIRER.

Of the co-sponsors of Macarambon's resolution, which advocates exile for Estrada, only Rodolfo Plaza belongs to an opposition party, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

The rest are pro-administration members of the House. They are Macarambon, Gregorio Ipong and Conrado Estrella III of the NPC; Romualdo Vicencio and Antonio Floirendo Jr. of the ruling Lakas; Harlin Abayon and Joey Hizon of the Liberal Party; and Wilfrido Villarama of Aksyon Demokratiko.

Macarambon had earlier said that 20 other House members had signified support for the resolution. Many more are willing to support the resolution. They are reportedly scared to sign the resolution.



ESTRADA: No to exile, yes to medical treatment.

But more allies of the President are talking about how exiling Estrada would be good for the country's political and economic stability.

Bulacan Rep. Wilfrido Buyson Villarama, who was chief of staff of President Macapagal-Arroyo when she was Vice President, yesterday said Estrada should be exiled because the political implications of his continued stay in the country were "scary."

Macarambon has yet to file his resolution, saying he is waiting for the 10th congressman to sign up as co-author.

But he said he would file the resolution even if Crispin Remulla, Estrada's spokesperson, came to the House yesterday to personally hand Estrada's letter saying he was not interested in exile.

"I am not interested to leave the country. I said it before and I am saying it again. I will not be an exile," Estrada said in the letter. But a friend of Estrada, who visited the former President several days ago, said Estrada wanted to go into exile.

"That is my option, not his. My position is not influenced by Estrada or Malacañang," Macarambon said.

"It's not up to Estrada because we are addressing this to Her Excellency as an option that is good for the country," he said.

Villarama said the proposal of his colleagues to exile Estrada was legally difficult but might be the only "pragmatic solution" to the possibility of political and economic instability arising from Estrada's condition.

"The earlier we can heal the wounds of this country, the better and the way to heal this in a pragmatic way is to allow Erap to go into exile," he said.

Villarama warned that Estrada could "wreak havoc on our system." Estrada's supporters have warned against another uprising after the former President fired his lawyers. Estrada said he could not obtain justice from the courts.

Villarama said Estrada could not be treated as a "pushover."

"Filipinos love the underdog. The mere fact that he was elected President overwhelmingly and was driven out of office is, already for them, enough punishment," he said.

If Estrada is convicted, Filipinos would hold sustained protest rallies, according to Villarama.

"Is the country prepared to see a popular President jailed for plunder and convicted with a penalty of death?" Villarama said.

He said Estrada's continued stay in the country could affect Ms Macapagal's reelection bid in 2004. ***With a report from Volt Contreras***

Lumbao likens self to his idol Erap

From page A1

himself to his idol, deposed President Joseph Estrada, and said that he, too, did not expect fair treatment from the authorities if ever he decided to yield.

Asked over the Radio Mindanao Network why he had not turned himself in, Lumbao said: "Put yourself in my shoes. If a former President can't seem to secure justice, how can a simple man like me seek justice for myself?"

The interview came a day after Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, ordered an intensified hunt for Lumbao following reports that the PMAP was mobilizing forces to mark the first anniversary of the Labor Day attack on Malacañang.

Lumbao, who said he was celebrating his birthday yesterday, is charged with rebellion for allegedly inciting the attack. He has managed to elude police who have a warrant for his arrest.

Upon learning of the radio interview, a police intelligence officer who requested anonymity said he had reprimanded his operatives for failing to get Lumbao.

"It seems he always gets wind of the agents when they close in on him and manages to evade arrest," the officer said, recalling that the agents also cased Lumbao's safe house in Tondo, Manila, the other day and came away empty-handed.

The officer doused speculation that police were reluctant to arrest Lumbao lest this trigger violent protest actions from the PMAP and other Estrada supporters similar to the May 1 siege of Malacañang.

"There's no such thing. We'll arrest him if we see him," the officer said.

A matter of time

But military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus said Lumbao's capture was imminent.

"It could just be a matter of time," Corpus told reporters at the sidelines of the national intelligence summit held yesterday in Malacañang.

Citing his own experience in the underground when he defected to the side of the communist rebels in the 1970s, Corpus said he hid for five years and was not caught.

"It's not that easy," he said of government efforts to serve the standing warrant of arrest for Lumbao.

In a separate interview, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez cited reports that Lumbao was either in Metro Manila or a province north of the metropolis, and noted that the PMAP leader was "very mobile."

"We're trying our best (to find him)," Golez said.

Rebel

Lumbao defended Estrada's decision to fire his lawyers from criticisms that this was just part of "a script" to delay his trial for plunder before the Sandiganbayan.

"Someway somehow, the points that former President Estrada raised are serious concerns," he said.

Lumbao also accused President Macapagal-Arroyo, former President Corazon Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Chief Justice Hilario Davide and the "constituents of Edsa II" of "producing a rebel out of Erap."

LUMBAO

"You make a rebel out of Erap, you make a rebel out of the poor of this country," he said. "The poor of this country look up to Erap as a symbol of power that he once represented and that they saw in concrete terms."

Lumbao also decried the reported directive of Director Edgar Aglipay, chief of the PNP in Metro Manila, to ban rallies in Sta. Mesa and Makati.

"We are slowly seeing that the face of this regime is that of tyrannical rule and not that of true democracy," he said. "Even (Ferdinand) Marcos, whom they accused of being a dictator and fascist, did not ban rallies. This regime was established by a popular revolt. Why is it afraid of the people?"

Riot

In Angeles City, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya said supporters of Estrada, including opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, were planning mass actions in the magnitude of last year's Labor Day riot.

Citing "intelligence reports on a national scale," Berroya, a former head of PNP intelligence and now Central Luzon police chief, said, "they hope to get an 'Edsa IV' kind of thing."

"They will do something before or until May 1," he told reporters after attending the peace and order symposium of the Angeles City Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Asked if Lacson was involved, Berroya said of his archenemy: "Certainly."

"Basically the same personalities are involved," he added, referring to a destabilization plot supposedly hatched by the opposition last year.

Berroya named Lumbao as one of the organizers of the planned pro-Estrada rallies.

"(They do) recruitment by organization," he said. "They talk to the leaders, pamper them with money, promises of this and that. Leaders commit in turn."

Berroya also said negotiations with a large Roman Catholic sect were ongoing.

"Our reports showed that money is flowing everywhere," he said without elaborating.

But he scoffed at the strength of the forces supposedly being mobilized, saying "nothing will happen."

He said staging another bloody riot or even protest actions would be "foolhardy." ***With reports from Carlito Pablo in Manila; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Basilan mayor gives Abu Sayyaf tit-for-tat

From page A1

About 160 US Special Forces troops have been deployed in Basilan for the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 war games aimed at crushing the elusive gunmen.

But Yap's family has complained that the focus of the campaign is on rescuing the Burnhams. The Philippine and US governments have said they are as interested in rescuing Yap.

The government has been helpless in stopping the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers, prompting vigilantes in Basilan to take the law into their own hands.

On March 24 last year, for instance, followers of Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar kidnapped the mother, wife, year-old daughter and seven relatives of Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani.

Akbar's followers offered to swap Janjalani's relatives for 53 hostages, mostly students and teachers, being held by the Abu Sayyaf.

The tactic worked. The hostage swap was completed after nearly three months of negotiations, threats and counter-threats. ***Reports from AP and AFP***

Batangas domino champion is blind

From page A1

The 23-year-old Ilao has been blind since birth. Despite this, he has excelled in various fields and has even helped others do so.

Ilao won over 20 other opponents with disabilities in the domino tournament, but all of them are gifted with sight. As winner, he will represent the province in the upcoming regional domino competition.

Ilao said his condition has never stopped him from doing what a person with sight can do.

"When I was a young boy, my cousins used to tell me not to do things that a blind boy can't do," he recalled, "but they were never successful. Since I have a passion for thrills, I have tried to do the things they said I could not do. And I have succeeded at that."

Ilao, in fact, possesses an above average IQ (intelligence quotient). He was accelerated from Kindergarten to Grade 1 at a special education school in San Jose town where he was born, and competed with classmates with normal sight.

At the age of 7, he already mastered playing the drums. His mother has supported him all the way. When his Grade 2 teacher went to work abroad, he studied at the Philippine School for the Blind in Manila under a scholarship grant from local officials.

He went on to study physical therapy and reflexology. He also developed his musical skill.

Angels

Ilao, who still practices physical therapy and reflexology, has had the best of his world, complemented by two angels.

"When I was in Manila, one of my regular clients was (actress) Angel Aquino. I think that's success enough," he said. But when he went back to Batangas, he met Psyche, who is now the center of his life.

Having Psyche, now 23, as partner was his biggest achievement, Ilao maintained. Psyche's parents did not accept him at first so they had to elope twice just to prove their love, he said.

"My wife is my inspiration. She supports me in everything I do. I had girlfriends before her, but I know that she is the angel sent by God for me to love," Ilao said.

Psyche, a karate blackbelter like her husband, never leaves Ilao and serves as his guide and source of moral support during his numerous gigs and concerts.

Sound of music

Ilao said his wife has inspired him to compose 15 songs. A versatile musician and player, he can sing from folk to rap.

He has trained aspiring musicians and singers, and even put up his own band, the Magnyfika, which plays three times a week at Butch's Bar along the national highway in Barangay Alangilan, this city.

"We've already performed at the Wood Blends and the Adam's Apple in Lipa City, and had a concert at the De La Salle University in Dasmariñas, Cavite," he said.

In this city, "we've been to the Best Grill, and now, we're regular performers here at Butch's Bar," he said.

Ilao has inspired so many people with disabilities and has been getting long and hair-raising rounds of applause whenever he entertains participants at every DSWD meeting.

The audience response is the same at the Butch's Bar, although some people do not readily believe that he's blind.

"Even I don't believe I'm blind," Ilao said, "that's because I can see and feel beyond what the sight-blessed people can."

Other feats

Last year, Ilao was awarded champion basketball coach for the Little League team he formed in the city.

Composed of teenagers, the team was inspired by their coach's words and won the overall championship.

Aside from conducting basketball training for children, Ilao is also a physical therapy teacher at the Our Lady of Caysasay Academy in Taal town. Ilao also won chess contests in the province, with sight-gifted people as opponents.

Ilao is a fast texter with the cellular phone. "I just listen to the sound of the letters to compose messages and send them," he said.

A Samsung-trained electronics technician and former broadcaster, Ilao also had his share of broadcasting for two years at the local radio station dzBR.

But now, he focuses more on his band. "We are so used to a world that says you have to be perfect to do whatever you want to do," Ilao said. "When I was a child, I had this belief that you can reach your goals if you just try. And when you try, you shouldn't lose hope."

"Keep on trying and you will reach your goal," he said. "In God's system, anything is possible. You just have to work for it."

EARTHQUAKE

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chief, said the earthquake was recorded at Intensity 9 in Palembang, Sultan Kudarat.

On the Richter Scale, the tremor measured Magnitude 7 in Koronadal, South Cotabato. ***(See sidebar)***

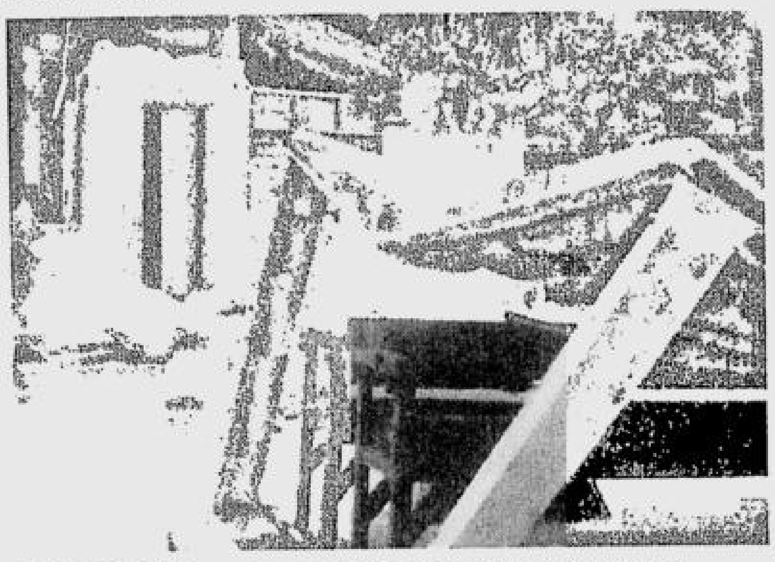
Ten aftershocks were recorded as of 12:12 yesterday in Kiamba, South Cotabato.

Punongbayan said it was the strongest earthquake to hit Mindanao since 1976 when a tremor caused by the movement of the Cotabato Trench killed some 8,000 people, mostly by a tsunami.

Police said about 100 people were injured at a tuna processing cannery in General Santos when about 1,000 night shift workers stampeded for the exits.

Some workers were trampled while others suffered cuts after being accidentally slashed by fellow workers who rushed out still carrying knives used to cut tuna.

AURORA Basquiness, 72, surveys damage to her house in barangay Mabay, Maitum, Sarangani, a coastal village. JUN RAMOS



FALLING debris crushes roof of police vehicle inside Camp Fermin G. Lira in General Santos City. PAUL BERNALDEZ

Scared

"We were all scared. The lights went out and we all ran to the door. People were crying, 'Oh, God, Oh, God,'" said worker Alona Dagupan, her clothes covered in blood.

At least five people were confirmed dead, while 17 others were wounded in the Socsargen (South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos) area.

Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, police chief for Central Mindanao, said two people were killed in General Santos, while 15 others were wounded.

But the Disaster Coordinating Council and the City Social Welfare Office said only one person died in General Santos. The fatality was identified as Yabani Pangolima, who died of cardiac arrest after the tremor.

President Macapagal-Arroyo sympathized with the earthquake victims and immediately called on national and local government units to speed up the delivery of assistance.

"I would like to extend my sympathies to those who were hurt or lost their loved ones and their homes," she told Bombo Radyo shortly after the earthquake.

The President said local government units with calamity funds must use them immediately. "If that is not enough, the National Disaster Coordinating Council will help out," she said.

Rampaging waters

In Lake Sebu town, South Cotabato, three people were killed after their houses were carried away by rampaging waters from Lake Maughan, according to Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division in Maguindanao.

"The walls of Lake Maughan were hit by a landslide at 5:20 a.m. so we urged the residents living beside the Allah River to evacuate," Ando told the Cotabato City-based Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp.

In 1995, more than 100 people died when Lake Maughan collapsed due to heavy rains.

Two others were reported killed in Lake Sebu. Susie Marie Italya, 13, and Lampi Maldan, 35, were killed when their houses collapsed.

The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council reported that two persons in the coastal town of Maitum died after the concrete wall of their houses collapsed.

The victims were identified as Gleserio Datoy, 76, and Georvin Mandal, 14, both of Barangay Mabay.

Heart attack

An old man in Barangay Baras in Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat died of cardiac arrest. In Davao City, Emmie Laroza, 31, also died of cardiac arrest.

In Koronadal City, a school building at the Barangay Cacub Elementary School collapsed, while structures such as the KCC Mall and Elan building suffered minor cracks.

An overpass at the South Cotabato Provincial Hospital and an approach to a ferry bridge in Barangay Gen. Paulino Santos in General Santos were damaged.

A house was destroyed in Barangay Labangal, also in Koronadal, while the water reservoir of Doña Soledad Subdivision II collapsed.

A mobile car of the police's explosive disposal unit in Camp Fermin G. Lira was wrecked when portion of the SWAT building caved in.

Power supply was cut in General Santos for more than five hours because at least four electric posts fell in Barangay Bula. It was partially restored at around 11 a.m.

In T'boli town, also in South Cotabato, a barangay health center collapsed while in Tupi town, two houses and two churches were damaged.

In Glan, Sarangani, Barangays Batulaki, Kaltuad and Sto. Niño were isolated because a bridge collapsed in Barangay Big Margus.

The quake also left a meter-wide cleavage on the concrete road at the Glan Sub-Port.

Fear of tsunami

Serafin Ramos Jr., Sarangani information officer, said reports from residents of Kiamba and Maitum towns showed that the sea receded by about 100 m from the coastline during the earthquake.

"Some 5,000 residents have evacuated for fear of tsunami," Ramos told the INQUIRER.

Ramos, however, denied reports that the earthquake triggered tidal waves in the province. "The OCD advised that the resident could now return because there was no danger of a tsunami," he said.

Punongbayan said what his men had monitored were meter-high tsunamis. He advised evacuees from coastal barangays to return to their homes as the "threat of tsunamis would end after 30 minutes."

Other areas of Mindanao which felt the earthquake were: Cotabato City (Intensity 5); Davao City (4); Kidapawan and Zamboanga Cities (Intensity 4); Bislig and Surigao del Sur (Intensity 3); Pagadian City and Mati, Davao Oriental (Intensity 3); Malaybalay, Bukidnon (Intensity 3) and Butuan City (Intensity 2).

"We are expecting limited damage in a sense that it is an underdeveloped area, it's a rural area," he said in a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo.

"If it had hit a metropolis, there would have been many elements at risk—hundreds of buildings and people and structures. We would have expected more damage buildup if a city was located nearby," Punongbayan said. ***With reports from Anthony S. Allada, Dennis Jay Santos, Edwin O. Fernandez and Butch D. Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Gerald G. Lacuarta, Martin P. Marfil and Dona Pazzibugan in Manila***

Armed Muslim fire guns

ARMED Muslims fired their guns in Cotabato City during the earthquake, injuring at least three persons.

Suspected Moro gunmen also fired their guns in Kidapawan City. Stray bullets wounded two people.

A Muslim cleric said Maguindanaons believed that the firing of guns or making noises during an earthquake could ward off evil spirits.

"It is within our customs and traditions. We believe that an earthquake will trigger the release of evil spirits," he told the Catholic-ran Radio dxMS.

What's the difference between Magnitude and Intensity?

MAGNITUDE and Intensity measure different characteristics of earthquakes. Magnitude measures the energy released at the source of the earthquake. Magnitude is determined from measurements on seismographs. Intensity measures the strength of shaking produced by the earthquake at a certain location. Intensity is determined from effects on people, human structures and the natural environment.

The following table gives intensities that are typically observed at locations near the epicenter of earthquakes of different magnitudes.

Magnitude/Intensity Comparison

Magnitude	Intensity	Description
1.0-3.0	I	I. Not felt except by a very few under especially favorable conditions.
3.0-3.9	II-III	II. Felt only by a few persons at rest, especially on upper floors of buildings. III. Felt quite noticeably by persons indoors, especially on upper floors of buildings. Many people do not recognize it as an earthquake. Standing motor cars may rock slightly. Vibrations similar to the passing of a truck. Duration estimated.
4.0-4.9	IV-V	IV. Felt indoors by many, outdoors by few during the day. At night, some awakened. Dishes, windows, doors disturbed; walls make cracking sound. Sensation like heavy truck striking building. Standing motor cars rocked noticeably. V. Felt by nearly everyone; many awakened. Some dishes, windows broken. Unstable objects overturned. Pendulum clocks may stop.
5.0-5.9	VI-VII	VI. Felt by all, many frightened. Some heavy furniture moved; a few instances of fallen plaster. Damage slight. VII. Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction; slight to moderate in well-built ordinary structures; considerable damage in poorly built or badly designed structures; some chimneys broken.
6.0-6.9	VII-IX	VIII. Damage slight in specially designed structures; considerable damage in ordinary substantial buildings with partial collapse. Damage great in poorly built structures. Fall of chimneys, factory stacks, columns, monuments, walls. Heavy furniture overturned. IX. Damage considerable in specially designed structures; well-designed frame structures thrown out of plumb. Damage great in substantial buildings, with partial collapse. Buildings shifted off foundations.
7.0 and Higher	VIII or Higher	X. Some well-built wooden structures destroyed; most masonry and frame structures destroyed with foundations. Rails bent. XI. Few, if any (masonry) structures remain standing. Bridges destroyed. Rails bent greatly. XII. Damage total. Lines of sight and level are distorted. Objects thrown into the air.

Source: USGS National Earthquake Information Center

Peace talks with Moro rebs shelved for now

From page A1

negotiations with the MILF was due to be held in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday.

Aside from the alleged ceasefire violations, there were other "reasons why we would like to temporarily suspend (the talks) now," Ermita said without elaborating.

The military has accused some MILF members of harboring Abu Sayyaf bandits who are holding two Americans and a Filipino nurse hostage in Basilan.

It has also accused MILF forces of mounting attacks in Central Mindanao in the past two weeks in order to recapture some of the main camps that they lost to a government offensive in 2000.

This would violate a ceasefire forged with the MILF last year in which both sides agreed to open formal peace talks.

A source close to President Macapagal-Arroyo said that she wanted to have the negotiations downgraded to "back-door channels."

Ms Macapagal was "really conscious of the fact that there are many accusations against the MILF," and she feared that these accusations could affect the formal negotiations, according to the source.

The source said the suspension of formal talks would only be temporary although he did not say how long it would last.

In a talk with Bombo Radyo, Ms Macapagal also gave no indication that she was suspending the talks.

"It's important that we speed up the peace talks, so that we can resolve these problems and move on to economic progress," she said.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, interviewed over radio station dzBB, also said that his group had not been formally informed of the suspension of the talks.

Kabalu said the government only wanted to move the start of the next stage of formal talks from March 9 to 12.

"Until we receive a formal notice, then we will assume the formal peace talks are continuing," Kabalu said.

He also denied that MILF forces were sheltering the Abu Sayyaf bandits who have been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The temporary suspension of the talks came a day after 45 MILF rebels in Tuburan, Basilan, surrendered to an Army battalion.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, commander of the 18th Infantry Battalion, said the MILF rebels turned in 29 firearms.

Lucero told reporters that MILF commanders pledged to convince about 90 other rebels to surrender.

"They have signified their intention to surrender since last year, but the discussion was focused on how to settle the issue of livelihood and the government's *'balik-baril'* program," he said.

The military estimates about 1,000 MILF rebels based in Basilan, along with some 300 Abu Sayyaf bandits. ***Reports from AFP, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Profession:
Teacher

Previous Job
·Itawes National Agricultural & Technical School
·Cagayan Teacher's College

The Power of Two

Present Job:

Branch Manager
Cocolife

Agency Manager
Cocolife

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And so we decided to pursue it. We both resigned from our teaching jobs, inspite of the protestations of my friends, (*"na magiging isang ahente na lang ako."*)

Within 7 weeks as an insurance agent, I earned what took me 8 1/2 years to earn as a teacher!

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CASINO FILIPINO EVENT

87th RP Open starts; Miñoza favored

MIÑOZA (left) in a light moment with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo before yesterday's start of the Pro-Am.

ROMY HOMILLADA

THE CASINO Filipino 87th Philippine Open starts today at Wack Wack East, with the illustrious Frankie Miñoza as the usual favorite to win the fabled tournament.

The 42-year-old Miñoza could not recall the times he got cut at Wack Wack, but on the eve of the nation's premiere event's blastoff, everybody was talking about his good old days at Wack Wack.

In 1985, Miñoza placed second behind American Mark Aebli in the RP Open, losing by one at Wack Wack.

Five years later in 1990, he was joint fourth behind Filipino champion Robert Pactolerin.

The rest of his stints at Wack Wack were forgettable, if not bizarre.

"I don't know," said Miñoza, teeing off today at 11:44 with American Jim Johnson and Korean Kang Wook-Soon. "I get this bad habit of getting cut when the Open is held at Wack Wack."

Still, the legendary Miñoza, the last Filipino to be invited to play in the US Masters in 1991, remains heavily favored to pocket his second RP Open title since his 1998 victory at Riviera's Couples.

"Frankie Miñoza is Frankie Miñoza," said American Mike Cunning, a consistent top finisher of the RP Open. "He might not have a good record at Wack Wack but still, he is the top favorite here."

Miñoza played in the Pro-Am yesterday in the company of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and MMDA chair Ben Abalos, who is also Wack Wack president and co-chair of the RP Open's executive committee.

Cassius Casas, the defending champion, will also be around to defend his crown he won last year over fellow Filipino Danny Zarate in the series presented by San Miguel Corp. in cooperation with Mitsubishi Motors Corp.

"I hope to make a big start this year so that I won't need to rally in the latter rounds," said Zarate, whose last-day heroics last year saw him overtake Australian David Gleeson and Gerard Cantada.

Gleeson finished third and Cantada fourth.

Aquinohole-in-one

FORMER Quezon City Rep. Tony Aquino last Sunday scored his first hole-in-one at the par-3, 145-yard 14th of Capitol Hills. He was with Ambassador Mac Lanto, Chief Supt. Cris Maralit and businessman Ramon Lopez.

TEE OFF TIME

6:30	1	Jay Bayron (A)	Philippines
	2	Cesar Ababa	Philippines
	3	Al Cruz	Philippines
6:39	7	Roger Cabajar	Philippines
	8	Edgar Ababa	Philippines
	9	Lee Seong-Ki (A)	Philippines
6:48	13	Saneh Saengsui	Thailand
	14	Angelo Que (A)	Philippines
	15	Roger Antonio	Philippines
6:57	19	Jose Jr. Cedo	Philippines
	20	Jun Bernis (A)	Philippines
	21	Zheng Wen-Gen	PRC
7:06	25	Ronnie Casas	Philippines
	26	Cheng June	PRC
	27	Lyndon Borril (A)	Philippines
7:15	31	Win Htwe Hlaing	Maynmar
	32	Melvin ESO	Philippines
	33	Gerald Cantada	Philippines
7:24	37	Chris Wilson	USA
	38	Tatsuhiko Takahashi	Japan
	39	Zaw Paing Oo	Myanmar
7:33	43	Michael Christensen	USA
	44	Amandeep Johl	India
	45	Ted OH	Korea
7:42	49	Richard Sinfuego	Philippines
	50	Derek Fung	Hong Kong
	51	Terry Pilkadaris	Australia
7:51	55	Danilo Delos Santos	Philippines
	56	James Stewart	Hong Kong
	57	Toshiya Sakakura	Japan
8:00	61	Troy Kennedy	Australia
	62	Katsuhiko Yamazaki	Japan
	63	Mario Manubay	Philippines
8:09	67	Michael Curtain	Australia
	68	Any Wei	Chinese Taipei
	69	Jess Casas	Philippines
8:18	73	Ernie Rellon	Philippines
	74	Teruhiko Hasesumi	Japan
	75	Chang Hung-Ta	Chinese Taipei
10:50	79	Rey Alit	Philippines
	80	Jerome Delariarte (A)	Philippines
	81	Roger Retuerto	Philippines
10:59	85	Yeh Yeou-Tsai	Chinese Taipei
	86	Dave Hernandez (A)	Philippines
	87	Elmer Salvador	Philippines
11:08	91	Vic Santia	Philippines
	92	Kim Hye-Dong (A)	Korea
	93	Patrick Young	Australia
11:17	97	Song Byung-Keun	Korea
	98	Mark Lopez (A)	Philippines
	99	Panupong Bulsombath	Thailand

'Just call me, Joe'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ATTAPHON Prathummanee.

What's that to you, fellas?

A prayer? A construction equipment? Or the scientific name of an insect?

None of the above, fellas.

That's a name. And the name belongs to a Thai. A golfer who will tee off today at 11:26 in the Casino Filipino 87th Philippine Open at Wack Wack East. I met him yesterday, when he served as pro of Jun Engracia, Musong Castillo and yours truly in the Open's Pro-Am.

We did well but that's getting ahead of the story.

The Thai's name may be a tongue-twister—as Thai names seemingly all are—but get this: For all that length, the guy's nickname takes the cake.

"Just call me, Joe," he said, extending a glad hand before we hit our first tee shot.

He has an American accent, by golly.

"My Dad is a Malaysian," he said. "I studied English and many Malaysians today speak good English."

Was I surprised.

"My father is a retired policeman," continued Joe. "He is retired now and does business in Myanmar. Mostly, palm oil."

In case you still don't know, Malaysia is the world's No. 1 producer of palm oil. Not to mention that palm oil is Malaysia's No. 1 dollar-earner today.

But Joe was born and raised in Thailand. Although he goes to Kuala Lumpur every now and then, it's Bangkok that he calls home. And that's where this piece is leading to—that Joe, during his amateur days, represented Thailand in international competitions. One such competition was the SEA Games in Brunei in 1999.

I covered the Brunei SEA Games and so, here's a flashback.

In Round 3 of the SEA Games golf competition, Joe, playing for Thailand, incurred a two-stroke penalty when he hit his ball during a practice swing.

In the final round of the event, Joe incurred yet another two-stroke penalty when his ball hit his golf bag.

Had Joe, 23, re-placed his ball after that accidental hit in Round 3, he would have been slapped just one stroke.

Had Joe's caddy ran with the golf bag and not leave the darn thing when Joe's ball was coming, the two-stroke penalty would not have happened.

Those four strokes cost Thailand the golf gold.

Those four strokes gave the Philippines the golf gold. By one.

Joe's learned his lesson. Yesterday, I did not see him make even a single practice swing before he made a stroke. He shot even-par 72, missing an eagle putt on the par-5 fifth (14th for the Open).

After the round, we shook hands.

"Been a pleasure playing with you, Sir," said Joe. "Hope I did well."

I must have answered "attaphon" instead of "attaboy."

Osaka-Pangasinan new MBA tandem

OSAKA Iridology formalized its entry to the MBA fold Tuesday night, hooking up with the Pangasinan Waves for the first conference starting on April 6.

"I'm happy that we're finally in the MBA. We're looking forward to a lasting relationship with the Waves and, of course, the league," said Jonathan Guardo, president and chief executive officer of the nationwide company specializing in health care.

Guardo and his brother Jerry, Osaka vice president for sales and services, signed the memorandum of agreement with the Waves' Tim Orbos and Lawrence Chongson. Henceforth, the team will be known as the Osaka-Pangasinan Waves.

"It (Pangasinan) is a very strong team. With Clay (Chris) and Adducul (Romel) around, we have a built-in-edge," said Guardo. "And with a formidable team, you'll get more media mileage."

To further strengthen the Waves, to be coached by Chongson, Guardo said he'd be recommending two Cebuano stalwarts, one of whom is University of Visayas' Junel Maglasang. The 6-foot-2 Maglasang is the starting off-guard of the Osaka-Cebu team in the Cebu Basketball League, which Guardo heads.

The other Waves are former Andok's San Juan Knights Randy Alcantara, Gilbert Castillo and Vilmer Banares; Paul Du, Francis Aquino, Bernard de Guia, Joshua Lambert, Julius David, Carlos Garcia and Fil-Am Rob Johnson.

RP Youth wins

THE RP Youth Team, representing the town of Sumilao, routed Libona, 104-72, for its second straight victory in the 1st Gov. Jose Ma. R. Zubiri Cup Open Invitational Basketball Tournament at the Bukidnon State College Gym.

Six players, led by Britt Reroma with 17 points, scored in double figures for RP Youth coach Johnny Tam as the Nationals duplicated their 92-81 win over Davao in the opener. The Nationals, being supported by Mayor Marie Ann Baula and husband Rey Baula, take a break today before going up against Baungon town.

Mandaluyong derby today

IT'S a four-way battle for championship among UCAP, NCA, Pasay and Makati cockers as Mandaluyong Coliseum presents another big time 5-cock derby today. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

"The derby will start at 4 p.m. since more than 80 fights will be fielded. Please come early to avail of choice seats," derby manager Rey Lee announced.

Lee added that electrifying quality fights are in store for aficionados in this grand battle to be hosted by lawyer Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza and ESM Ruel.

On Tuesday, unheralded bet Raymond del Castillo of Iloilo City emerged as double champion in the Jimmy Mariquit 5-cock derby when his two entries—That's It and Casino Filipino—posted 3.5 points each.

Meanwhile, the 6th Ucap/TR Phoenix Hammer Jr. 7-Cock derby is all set on March 12 and 14. Derby hosts are Mario Villamor, Tito Reyes, Benjie Lim and Wacky Salud.

For inquiries, contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

Relentless 4-cocker begins

COCKING aficionados will be treated to no less than 60 quality fights with the holding today of the Relentless 4-Cock Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

Hosted by low-profile cocker-breeder Emmette San Juan, this derby has a cash prize of P400,000 for an entry fee of P10,000.

Las Piñas Mayor Nene Aguilar leads the entries together with Gerry Ramos, MG Fighter and others. The group of Galleros de Manila headed by Iking Araneta and the Zapote-Las Piñas group are also participating in this derby.

San Juan said weights between 1.8 kg and 2.4 kg must be submitted on the day of the fights (today) from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The P300 ticket prize will be on a buy-one, take-one basis until 6 p.m. only after which it is a sit-anywhere basis.

Meanwhile, the Roligon management announced that its Checking Account No. 003121-00198-3 at Allied Bank shall not be honored as it has been closed last Aug. 24.

For inquiries and cockhouse reservation call Tiling or Lito at 833-16-38 or 833-22-75.

Ateneo holds cross country race

THE ATENEO de Manila University Track and Field Program, in cooperation with the Ateneo Athletics Office, is inviting all interested runners to compete in the "1st Ateneo Cross Country festival" on March 9, Saturday, from 7-9 a.m. at the Ateneo High school grounds.The event is sponsored by Viva Mineral Water, and in part by Grilla Bar and grill. For more information, contact Mick Perez at 0919-5515737.

Jaguar X-Type special prize at Country Club

THE THIRD annual Jaguar golf invitational will be held at the exclusive The Country Club in Canlubang, Laguna on March 11-15 with a brand-new Jaguar X-Type at stake as a hole-in-one prize.

The champion team will gain the right to represent the country in the Jaguar Golf Finals at the St. Andrews Gold Course in Gleneagles, Scotland, flying to the United Kingdom on business class tickets courtesy of Cathay Pacific Airways.

Other sponsors of the event are Nautica, Standard Insurance, Hyatt Regency, Euroclasik Collections, Motorola, Standard Chartered Bank, GNC Products, Lucerne Jewellers, DHL, Bose/Eleksis Marketing and Roche.

Around 200 amateur golfers are expected to see action in the four days of action. The event is by-invitation only and will be exclusive to Jaguar owners and guests of Jaguar Philippines.

Barkley accuses Augusta of racism

NEW YORK—Former NBA star Charles Barkley is accusing Augusta National Golf Club of "blatant racism," saying the reason behind recent changes to the course was to keep Tiger Woods from winning the Masters.

"Jack Nicklaus won the Masters six damn times, and he was hitting it past everybody else, and they never made a change," Barkley said in this week's issue of Sports Illustrated. "What they're doing to Tiger is blatant racism."

Augusta National spokesman Glenn Greenspan said the club had no comment.

Recent renovations, which include nearly 275 additional meters (300 yards), were announced by chairman Hootie Johnson the day before last year's Masters began. Woods won his second green jacket by two shots over David Duval. *AP*

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Fortune Maker 2. Strong Alphonse 3. Nag-iisang Ikaw 4. Green Leaves

Race 2—1. Charisse Angel 2. Rock's Dragon 3. Light Hearted

Race 3—1. Red Hahn 2. Fly Away 3. Come in Glory 4. Johann Song

Race 4—1. Diva 2. Gold Honors 3. Slew's Valentine 4. Taproot 5. Let Me Pass

Race 5—1. Yes Sir 2. Sense of Justice 3. Forest Dancer 4. Queen of Less

Race 6—1. Silver Eagle 2. Suterian Era 3. Guts Pleaser 4. Aya's Star 5. Boomerang

Race 7—1. Stradivarius 2. Prince of Africa 3. Morning Glory 4. King Cobra

Race 8—1. Gidget 2. Noble Principality 3. Worth Ur While 4. Timeless Beauty 5. Samahan

Race 9—1. Ready Aim Fire 2. Diamond Buck 3. Zip On 4. Cycloneferros 5. Enjoy D View 6. Cardinal Rule

87th CASINO FILIPINO PHILIPPINE OPEN
Pagcor Five Million

EFRAIM C. Genuino (second from left), Pagcor chair, hands over a symbolic check of P5 million to Ben Abalos (third from right) representing Pagcor's support to Asia's oldest golf tournament which starts today at Wack Wack. Flanking them are Pagcor directors (from left) Manuel Roxas, Domingo Calajate and Danilo Gozo.

Buenavista, Lozada to run in HK

By Marc Anthony Reyes

EDUARDO Buenavista and John Lozada, the country's best bets in the Asian Games middle and long-distance running, get to test their mettle when they take on possible Asiad rivals in two competitions in Hong Kong this weekend.

The events will also serve as tune-up competitions for the Asiad-bound athletes, who are among the nine finest Filipino athletes supported by the International Olympic Solidarity.

The 24-year-old Buenavista, the only two-gold winner in the recent Southeast Asian Games (steeplechase and 5,000 meters), will compete in the March 10 Adidas King of the Road 2002, a 10K event where top Asian runners are seeing action.

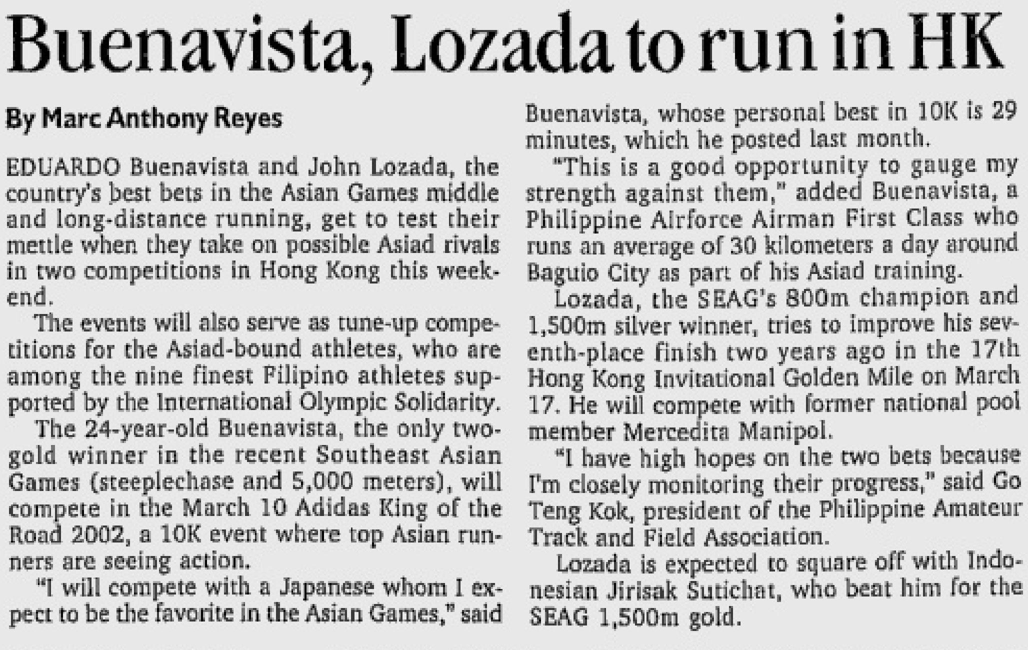
"I will compete with a Japanese whom I expect to be the favorite in the Asian Games," said Buenavista, whose personal best in 10K is 29 minutes, which he posted last month.

"This is a good opportunity to gauge my strength against them," added Buenavista, a Philippine Airforce Airman First Class who runs an average of 30 kilometers a day around Baguio City as part of his Asiad training.

Lozada, the SEAG's 800m champion and 1,500m silver winner, tries to improve his seventh-place finish two years ago in the 17th Hong Kong Invitational Golden Mile on March 17. He will compete with former national pool member Mercedita Manipol.

"I have high hopes on the two bets because I'm closely monitoring their progress," said Go Teng Kok, president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association.

Lozada is expected to square off with Indonesian Jirisak Sutichat, who beat him for the SEAG 1,500m gold.



ASIAD-BOUND JINS

Members of the Petron-RP Taekwondo Team take a break from their training for the 15th Asian championships in Jordan, the World Cup championships in Tokyo, and the 14th Asian Games in Busan, Korea. Among them are Eva Marie Ditan, Nancy Remollena, Loraine Lorelie Catalan, Jasmin Strachan, Kalindi Tamayo, Veronica Domingo, Mary Antoinette Rivero, Grace Opinion, Margarita Bonifacio, Sally Solis, Gerard Gregorio, Michael Torres, Manuel Rivero Jr., Rodolfo Valenzuela, Ronald Geisler III, Jeferthom Go, Tshomlee Go and Arnold Valenzuela. The nationals are also scheduled to train in Turkey in June.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PBL rookie camp lures 158 cagers

A TOTAL of 158 aspirants will display their wares in the PBL Rookie Camp today from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Makati Coliseum.

All aspirants must come in their playing uniforms in the tryout where PBL coaches will take a glimpse of their talents for the Rookie Draft set March 11.

Notables from the University Athletic Association of the Philippines and the National Collegiate Athletic Association joined the list of applicants.

Among them are UST's 6'4 Christian Pierce Luanzon, Serafin Matias, 6'3 Michael Louie Buendia, 6'0 James Anthony Ongpin, 6'3 Lago James Raterta and 6'2 Glen Maching; FEU's Rhagnee Sinco, James Zablan, 6'6 James Razon, Raymond Fabia, Vincent Conlu and 6'3 Cesar Catli; Adamson's 5'10 guard Franlix Briones, La Salle's 6'2 Oscar Bunyi; national University's 6'3 guard Behn Joseph Balijon, 6'4 ½ Mooricelanthe Mejorada, 6'2 guard Randy Baculando, Joseph Galongca and 6'5 Reynaldo Mendoza; PCU's Alwyn Ilagan; Jose Rizal University's Joel Villarin and Joel Finuliar; and San Sebastian's 6'2 wingman Francis Dominic Nadela.

Most of the applicants have already seen action in either the PBL Juniors, Philippine Youth Basketball League (PYBL) or the PBL Open.

All set for 6th Nestea beach 'volley'

BEACH volleyball action.

AFTER holding successful beach volley competitions in the past five years, the stage is all set once again for the 6th Nestea Beach Volley University Championships.

From March-April, Nestea will gather the country's top collegiate players for the biggest school-based tournament to date. An unprecedented number of 128 teams from 64 schools all over the country is expected to participate in the competition.

In 1997, the tournament brought together 48 teams from different colleges and universities mostly from the Metro Manila area. Participants were comprised initially of curious athletes who wanted to try out something different. After the success of the first tournament, competition heated up, and just got better.

Now on its sixth installment, the La Salle Greenhills beach volleyball court plays host to the country's best young beach volley players. Metro Manila eliminations will be held on March 9-10 and April 6-7. Players from Luzon and Visayas-Mindanao will get their chance to view beach volleyball supremacy on April 13-14 and April 17-18, respectively. Transportation and accommodations for Luzon and Vis-Min teams will be shouldered by Nestea.

Finalists from these elimination legs will be flown to Boracay to claim the titles kings and queens of the beach!

Over half a million in prizes are in store for the finalists with the champion teams to receive P100,000 each. The school they represent will also be given P50,000 worth of sports equipment.

Interested schools, call the secretariat at 722-7717.

The 6th Nestea Beach Volley University Challenge is made possible with partners Speedo, the official outfitter of the tournament, Mikasa and Asian Spirit.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Luisita tallied a 549 total to win the 45th PAL Interclub Golf Championship in Bacolod City. Also today in 1995, Mobiline-Nationals clocked 2 minutes, 30.51 seconds to bag the professional division of the 4th Dragon Boat Festival at Manila Bay.

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Nat'l table selection meet gets under way April 15-21

IN ITS effort to select the finest table tennis players in the country, the Table tennis Association of the Philippines is hosting the 1st Tatap National Table Tennis Selection from April 15-21 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Tatap President Victor U. Valbuena announced that the event will serve as a final basis in selecting the national table tennis team which will undergo rigorous training in China in preparation for the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in 2003.

On tap are four events, namely, men's singles, women's singles, boys singles 15 and under (those born on or after April 15, 1986). On top of these four events is the national selection proper where those who will qualify will fight it out with the current national players to determine the composition of the national table tennis team.

Cash prizes and trophies will be awarded to the winners in this prestigious event after the last staging of the Rustan's National Table Tennis Championships held last December 2001.

Entries may be submitted at the organizing committee of the 1st National Table Tennis Selection c/o Oscar Yoshihiro S. Santelices or Mylne Laguitan, Rm. 203, PSC Administration Bldg., Pablo Ocampo Street, Malate, Manila.

For inquiries, call Tatap office, tel. no. 522-1885. Last day of registration is on April 8.

Garma grabs chess lead

Standing after six rounds:
Garma 5.5 points; Torre, Antonio, Senador, Martinez, Sales, Ranola, Suclo, Tolentino, Villavieja 5.0; Sinangote, Milagrosa, Vasquez, Balico, Legaspi, Labaya, Abas, Raymundo 4.5.

TORRE

SAN FERNANDO, La Union—International Master Chito Garma downed upset-conscious Rainier Labay to wrest the solo lead after the sixth round of the 2002 La Union Open Chess Championship at the Marcos Bldg. Here.

Handling the black pieces of a Closed Sicilian, the veteran Garma exploited a pawn advantage in a knight-and-pawns endgame to score the win after 48 moves. The win shoved him into the solo lead in the star-studded cast of 150 players.

Erstwhile co-leaders GM Joey Antonio and NM Emmanuel Senador agreed to an early draw and dropped into a share of second to 10th places with similar 5.0 points alongside GM Eugene Torre and five other campaigners.

Torre, the highest-ranked player here, beat Ildefonso Datu to bounce back after a draw with fellow GM Antonio in the previous round.

Also in the company of Antonio, Senador and Torre are NM Rolly Martinez, FM Jesse Noel Sales, NM Yves Ranola, Roberto Suelo, Rustom Tolentino and Edgar Villavieja.

Favorite fishing venues

COMMENTARY

By Vic Vic Villavicencio

AMONG the most frequently asked questions about fishing are those concerned with where and how to get there.

Many beginners are often discouraged when we mention faraway places. They want places that can be reached within a few hours drive so they can be back home the same day. Or if what they had in mind is a two-day weekend, they can be back before nightfall on Sunday.

A favorite for weekenders is Talisay in Calatagan, Batangas. Less than three kilometers past that junction where one turns right to Matabungkay, just look for home made signs that announce "fishing" and "boats for hire" on the right side of the highway. This is about the only coastal village in the country that has a comparatively well organized "backyard" sport fishing industry.

The boatmen will cater to bottom fishing and trolling enthusiasts, and their bancas are equipped for both, no problem. You can have a pair of trolling sets and six bottom fishing rigs and they have enough rod holders on their boats for your fishing convenience. They may even have an extra pair of 12-lb rods and reels for you or your guest.

Need overnight facilities? You can't go wrong with Lago de Oro. This resort has air-conditioned rooms, hot showers, a ref and television, and a verandah that opens to the side of a green yard and swimming pool, or a man-made saltwater lagoon where you can try water skiing without the use of speed boats—the only one of its kind in the country. Cool.

Not too sure about open sea fishing? Try Lake Caliraya. At Lagos del Sol they have boats and fishing gear if you have the patience needed for bass fishing. Even better if you know some of the guys at B.A.S.S. Philippines and Philippine Game Fishing Foundation who own those boats that you see parked off the highway fronting Caliraya Country Club.

Still closer to the city, and perfect for the one-or half-day angler, are the fish ponds of Valenzuela, Bulacan. Many fishponds owners open their bangus and tilapia farms to anglers, and all they ask is that you pay for what you catch—at per kilo prices lower than the usual rates at your favorite wet market.

And speaking of bangus, even angling veterans have discovered that one-to two-kilo bangus on 8 or 10-lb line at fish pens of Boy Eusebio near Sangley Point in Cavite provides sport that equal the thrills of talakitok or tuna fishing. Arrangements can be made on one-day notice to Mr. Eusebio who can be reached on cell phone 0917-4475642.

In a future piece, we will point you to other places that offer big game thrills—if sailfish, blue marlin, sword fish and yellow fin tunas are more to your angling inclinations. (e-mail: yvv@pacific.net.ph)

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Big East Tournament at 8 a.m. and at 5 p.m., Quarterfinal #1 tomorrow at 1 a.m., Quarterfinal #2 tomorrow at 3 a.m. on ESPN

US NCAA - Conference USA Tournament, First Round at 10:30 a.m. on ESPN

NBA at 10 p.m. on NBN 4

GOLF: PGA Genuity Championship, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r), Highlights at 11 p.m. on Star Sports

POOL: Mosconi Cup 2001 at 1:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Rack 'Em Up - Earl Strickland vs Mika Immonen at 7 p.m. on ESPN

SOCCER: English Premier Football League - Newcastle United vs Liverpool at 7 a.m., Manchester United vs Derby County at 12 noon on Star Sports on Star Sports

World Cup Mix at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Soccer Match of the 90s Season - Manchester United at 6 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Futbol Mundial at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports

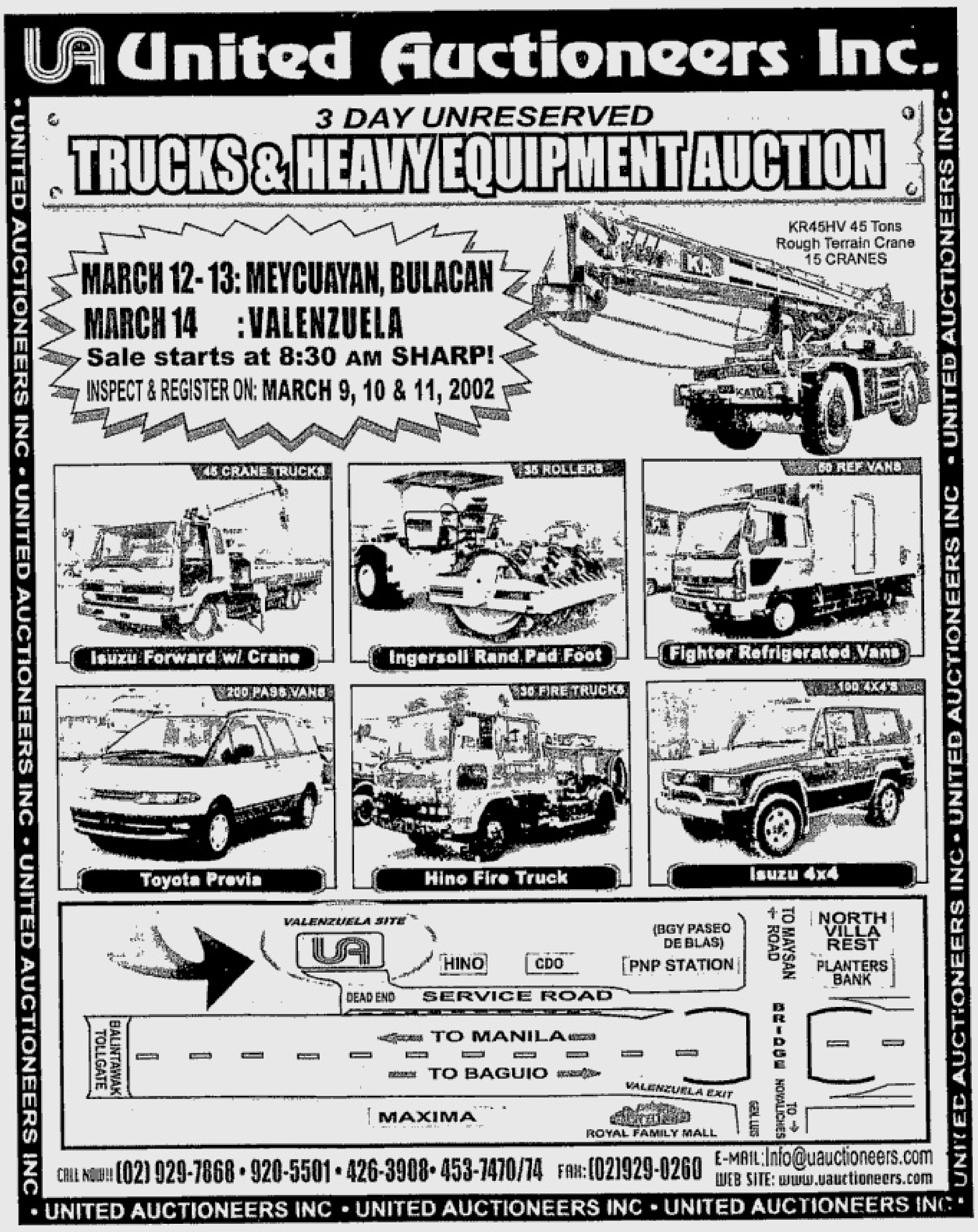
CYCLING: Tour of Langkawi, Day #8 Highlights at 11:30 a.m., Day #9 Highlights at 5:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

MOTOR SPORTS: Motorsport Asia at 4:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BOXING: Bruno Wartelle vs Damion Sutten at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

SNOOKER: Premier Snooker League 2002 at 9:30 p.m. on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.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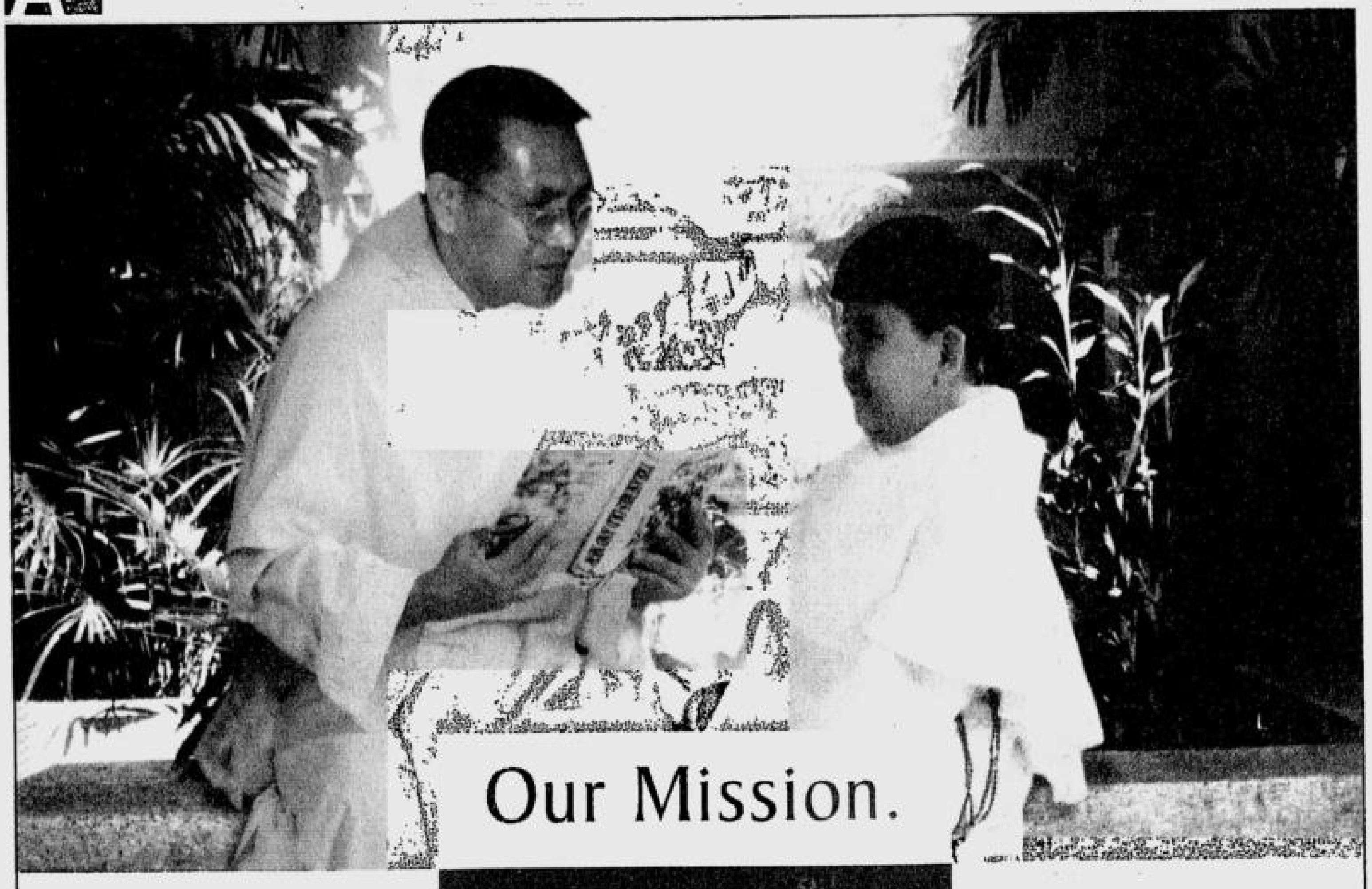

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Casino Filipino 87th Philippine Open starts today at Wack Wack; Miñoza leads entries

/A16

MIÑOZA

Pals battle SLR 5 today

Teams	W	L
Purefoods	3	1
Red Bull	3	1
Alaska	3	1
Hapee-RP	3	1
Talk N Text	2	1
Coca-Cola	3	2
Fedex	2	3
Sta. Lucia	1	2
Selecta-RP	1	3
Shell	1	3
Ginebra	1	3
San Miguel	1	3

GAME TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
6 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Talk N Text

By **June Navarro**

OUT to prove its conquest of San Miguel Beer was not a fluke, Talk N Text tests its newfound character against Sta. Lucia Realty today in the PBA Governors Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Phone Pals pulled off an 82-81 squeaker over the Beermen at the same venue last week, a victory that, observers say, was borne out of sheer luck.

Elmer Lago hit a triple and the Phone Pals employed an airtight defense in the last play, denying the Beermen the victory while giving the Manny Pangilinan-owned squad its second straight win after three starts.

"Pure luck or not, a win is still a win and it will always stay as a positive outcome," said Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno, whose Phone Pals eye a piece of the lead along with Alaska, Purefoods, Hapee-RP and Red Bull at 3-1.

But chances are, the Phone Pals are expected to encounter rough sailing in the 6 p.m. setto as the Realtors bring in a new import to replace the inefficient Lelan McDougal.

NBA veteran Mark Davis was the Minnesota Timberwolves' second-round pick (48th overall) in the 1995 NBA draft and had seen action for the Timberwolves (95-96), Philadelphia (96-98), Miami (98-99) and Golden State (99-2000).

The credentials of the 6-foot-7 Davis would be enough to strike fear in the hearts of the Phone Pals, who realy mainly on Gerald Honeycutt and Richie Frahm.

Davis, a dribbler out of Texas Tech, will team up with the power-dunking Victor Thomas in pulling the Realtors out of oblivion.

MJ-less Wizards win anew

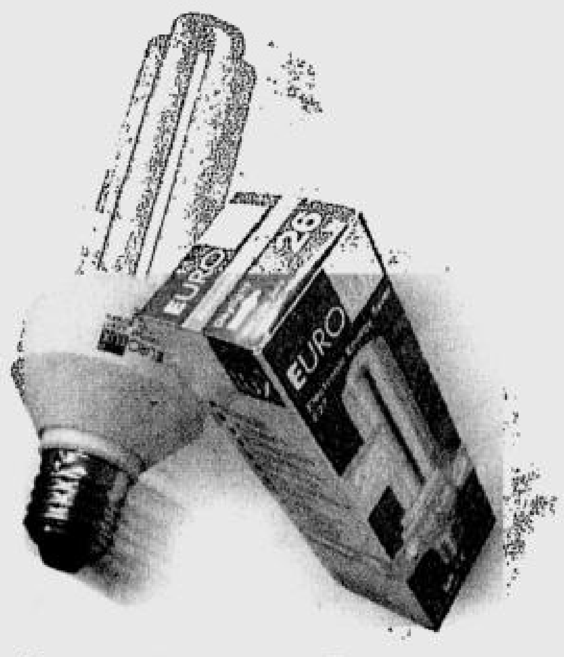
WASHINGTON — Reserve Courtney Alexander scored 26 points as the Washington Wizards won their second consecutive game without Michael Jordan in the NBA on Tuesday, beating the Chicago Bulls 115-90.

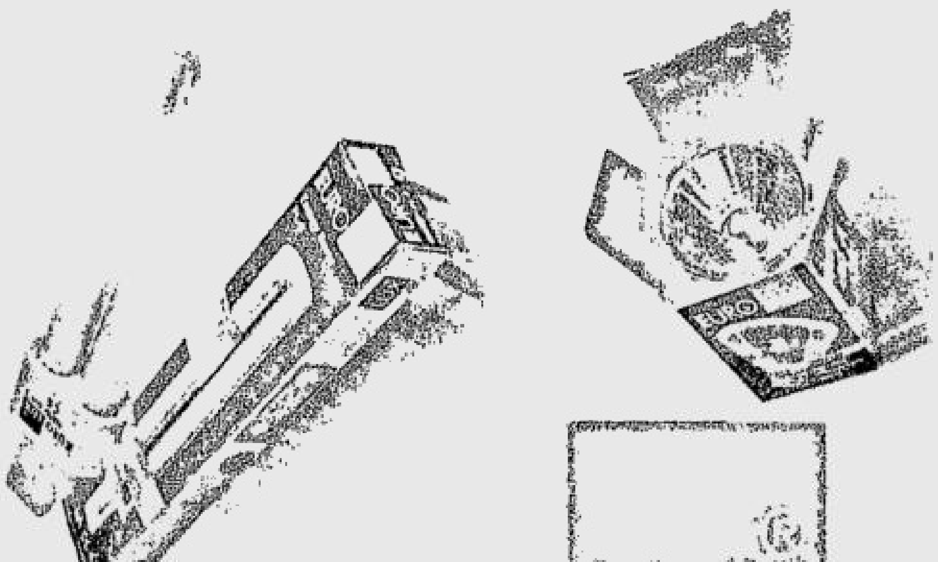
Alexander made 9 of 11 shots in 28 minutes to lead the team in scoring for the second consecutive game. The Wizards also avenged a lackluster 90-81 loss at Chicago last week.

Jordan, recovering from knee surgery, watched the game on television from the locker room. He has missed four games since his surgery, with the Wizards going 2-2.

Complete results: Cleveland 103, Atlanta 96; Washington 115, Chicago 90; New York 102, Milwaukee 89; Miami 93, Detroit 91; Indiana 111, Orlando 98; San Antonio 109, Golden State 88; Houston 112, Toronto 109; Dallas 81, Phoenix 77; L.A. Lakers 101, New Jersey 92; Seattle 97, Minnesota 83. *AP*

THERE is SO MUCH,
that we couldn't even show it ALL!





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Slain over obstruction

A DRUNKEN man yesterday killed a 31-year-old pedicab driver during a petty argument over a street obstruction in Pasay City, police said. Manuel "Waway" Francisco, 47, allegedly stabbed dead William Arceo about 5:30 a.m. on Geronimo Street in Barangay Malibay. The incident came after the drunken suspect, who had just left a wake, accidentally slammed into the victim's pedicab, investigation showed. *Christian Esguerra*

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

P24B lost from fires

PROPERTY worth P24.84 billion went up in smoke nationwide in the last five years, statistics from the Bureau of Fire Protection disclosed. The National Capital Region registered the biggest property losses with a total of P10.65 billion or 57 percent of the total. BFP Chief Francisco S. Senot said the huge losses from fires in the last five years underscore its adverse impact on the economy.

Marikina City turning as 'fine' as Singapore

By Nelson Forte Flores

MARIKINA City Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando said she will turn Marikina into a "fine" city similar to Singapore and vowed to rigorously implement all national and local laws to transform her city into the most disciplined and progressive metropolitan area in the country.

Fernando, who had just arrived from a successful weeklong visit to Singapore, noted that the Filipino nation today is where Singapore used to be 30 or 40 years ago, a time when that island state at the tip of the Malayan peninsula was instilling discipline in her citizens.

After discipline has been instilled in Singaporeans, Fernando said, they can now focus their attention on other things.

"We will make all national and local laws alive by enforcing them to ensure the development and progress of Marikina," Fernando said.

Fernando said she will not hesitate to punish or fine violators, even if Marikina comes to be regarded as a "fine (penalty) city."

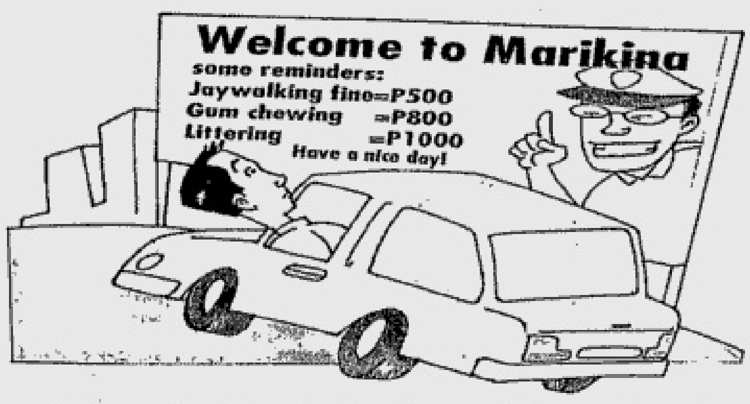
She said that based on the experience of her administration, and that of her husband, former city mayor Bayani Fernando, Marikenyos can be disciplined and turned into law abiding citizens, provided the law is dispensed without fear or favor.

"Take for example our public markets, which are the cleanest in Metro Manila, if not the whole country," Fernando said. "This is due to the strict implementation of our laws and city ordinances."

Fernando said she will encourage foreign and local investors to make Marikina their destination. She promised to create an atmosphere where capital will thrive and jobs created.

"We will make Marikina an industrial giant, an economic powerhouse, a center of discipline, culture and education, and not just the shoe-making capital of the Philippines," Fernando said.

Marikina was once a poor municipality in eastern Metro Manila, but recent political developments have turned it into one of the most vibrant, clean and disciplined areas in the national capital region.



Tourist looter executed

Ermita Station chief: 'I don't mind being accused of human rights violation'

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE CAMPAIGN against petty criminals preying on foreign tourists in Manila took a bloody twist on Tuesday night.

The body of an alleged Batang City Jail gang member, who was summarily executed, was found outside the Robinson's Place Mall in Ermita, Manila.

A piece of card board hung around the male victim's neck had words sternly warning criminals: "*Turista huwag holdapin. Alagaan. Susunod Ativan naman* (Don't rob tourists. Take care of them. Ativan Gang members will be next)," the warning said.

Detective Raul Olavario, of the Western Police District-homicide district, said the victim was aged 30-35 years old, 5'1" to 5'3" in height, of slim built, and wearing a gray shirt, blue jogging pants, and rubber shoes.

The victim also had several tattoos on his body. The words "BCJ No. 32" was tattooed on his right hip; "International Combat" near his right upper nipple, "Seaman" on his right arm, and "Batang City Jail Max Mejos" on his right shoulder.

The victim, who had welts on his neck, arms and feet, was apparently strangled to death, Olavario added.

He said a passerby noticed the victim sprawled along P. Faura Street in Ermita near Robinsons Place around 11:30 p.m.

The body was later taken to a funeral parlor in Paco for autopsy.

The summary execution comes a day after Supt. Manolo Martinez, the Ermita police station chief, promised to get tough on petty criminals who victimize foreign tourists.

Besides criticizing the security set-up in Robinsons Place, Martinez told the INQUIRER that he also ordered his men to arrest locals who "suspiciously" befriend foreigners.

Martinez has jurisdiction over the Ermita tourist district, Luneta Park, and the historic walled city of Intramuros, where Ativan gang members usually pick up their victims.

Martinez said he wanted Filipinos who suspiciously befriend foreigners arrested in order to stop Ativan Gang members, who befriend their victims before drugging and robbing them.

"*Di bale nang ma*-human rights (I don't mind getting accused of violating human rights). We need to prevent these incidents," Martinez said.

He added that the police could legally hold persons for six hours without charges being filed.

Martinez also said that his order aims to stop Ativan Gang members by simply interrupting the encounter and taking custody of the Filipino or Filipina even for just a few minutes "to see what happens."

Suspects do not have to be brought to the police station, he warned.

Beggar goes for jackpot, steals Italian's wallet

By Philip C. Tubeza

BEGGAR Lorens Lorica did not accept the P60 an Italian tourist offered him when he asked for money from the foreigner in Ermita, Manila yesterday.

Lorica, 40, instead tried to run off with the wallet of Italian Paolo Lassi, 58, which contained P4,000, credit cards, and US$400.

Patrolling Ermita policemen saw what happened and arrested Lorica, of Solchauga Street, Barangay Singkamas, Makati, said SPO2 Mario Salonga, of the Western Police District General Assignment Section.

The suspect approached Lassi and asked for money from the Italian, who just came out of the Palm Plaza Hotel where he is staying.

Lassi said that as he was about to give P60 to Lorica about 12:30 p.m. yesterday, the suspect suddenly grabbed his wallet, took its contents, and threw back the wallet.

Seeing the wallet empty, the Italian ran after the fleeing suspect. Luckily, alert policemen noticed the commotion and went after Lorica. They eventually caught up with him and later took the suspect to Western Police District headquarters.

Lassi said it was the second unpleasant experience he had had with a Filipino "beggar."

Earlier this week, Lassi said a beggar asked him for money while he was near a barbershop.

When he was not able to give alms, the male beggar slapped him on the face. Lassi said he forgave the beggar when the latter repented and said sorry.

But Lassi said although he is a "Catholic," he will not be as forgiving with Lorica.

The victim said he was also having second thoughts about staying in the country. Lassi said he initially planned to stay in Bohol.

DENNIS SABANGAN

COLOR OF RAGE

Protesting against the injustice and poverty poor women suffer, leaders of Women Rage clamor for change by putting highlights on their hair, coloring their palms and smearing the picture of the President. To mark the International Women's Day on Friday, the group will hold a big mobilization in front of the US Embassy.

METROBRIEFS

Gang man arrested

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) arrested Cesar L. Demafelix, 19, married, of 155 Nenita St. in Barangay Gulod, Novaliches, Quezon City for the killing of Indian student Sarabit Singh, 22, last year. Demafelix is one of four men, known to be members of "Sibuyas" Gang, who allegedly shot dead Singh in front of his mother on Aug. 16. 2001 during a robbery in Novaliches, said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco. Singh's mother lost her bag containing P40,000 and several pieces of jewelry during the robbery. The group got its name after they were identified as being responsible for a series of robberies against Indian businessmen and taxi drivers in Novaliches. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Suspected robbers charged

POLICE filed charges of robbery and homicide against Teresito Muralla, 35, of BF Homes, Parañaque City; Edito Silvano, 25, of Batasan Hills, Quezon City, and Rodel Sulad, 35, all suspects in the P300,000 payroll robbery of H-Ramos Plastic Manufacturing Corp. on Gen. T. de Leon Street in Valenzuela City last weekend. The suspects were arrested after a shootout with police. Three other suspects, Rodolfo Silvano, Ronnie Garcia and Anthony de Facto, were killed in the shootout, police said. Police found in the suspects' possession four handguns, a grenade, assorted jewelry, 9 cell phones, wallets and the car they used during the robbery. But some of their companions are still at large and have with them the money stolen from the plastic company, police said. *Agnes E. Donato*

Palace man sues for libel

THE CHIEF photographer of the Malacañang's news and information bureau has sued for libel 24 of his subordinates who had accused him of misconduct, including his alleged use of his office for "womanizing activities." Gerardo "Jerry" Carual, officer-in-charge of the Photo Section of the NIB, which is under the Office of the Press Secretary, branded the accusations as "lies and product of wild and fertile imagination."

"They are meant to destroy my honor and credibility to force me to resign or be removed from my position," Carual said in his five-page complaint affidavit dated Feb. 18. The complaint is being heard. by Manila city assistant prosecutor Reynaldo Liwanag, who has asked the respondents to submit their reply. He told the INQUIRER yesterday that he is trying to reconcile the parties. *Jerome Aning*

Erap should be allowed to go on exile

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

FORMER President Ramos warned that allowing his deposed successor, Erap, to go on exile would "destroy our credibility as a democracy."

"We will be seen as a wishy-washy country with no firm moorings in democracy, justice and fair play," Ramos said.

He can afford to give that piece of unsolicited advice to leaders of government and so-called civil society not from a vantage point but from a position of safety. He will not suffer the consequences of a wrong decision.

***

Ramos never confronted the same kind of problem during his watch.

The government, particularly the Macapagal administration, is walking on a tight rope in the controversy on whether to send Erap into exile.

President Macapagal is caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. Put in another way, the government will have to choose the lesser evil.

***

For what is the government's use of "credibility as a democracy" if the country is wracked by internal strife or civil war?

To heck with what other countries think of for letting an accused ex-president go on exile, so long as we remain a united nation.

If the right solution is not applied, the Erap problem may plunge us into a fratricidal war.

***

This writer is not being an alarmist in citing the supposed consequences if the government makes the wrong decision.

At the program "Debate ni Mare at Pare" on GMA 7, one of the panelists of the show, then Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, belittled the capability of Erap's followers in making trouble if they though the government was harassing their idol. The topic then was whether to send the deposed president on exile instead of trying him in court. This was before Erap's high-profile arrest and detention.

I contended it would do well for the government to send the humbled ex-president on exile. I said millions of poor, uneducated Erap fans would die for their screen hero who now projects the image of an underdog.

I am not in the habit of saying "I told you so," but I proved Ermita wrong when thousands of Erap followers stormed Malacañang in the aftermath of his arrest and detention.

***

If president Marcos was allowed to go to Paoay, Ilocos Norte instead of Hawaii, as the fallen dictator had requested in return for their safe passage out of Malacañang, you think his fellow Ilocanos would have taken his "oppression" sitting down? There probably would still be pockets of rebellion in the Ilocos region to this day.

Of course this is only hypothetical, but if Marcos, who didn't have as big a following as Erap's, could have established an "Ilocos Republic," you think Erap can't stage a revolt against this government with millions of fanatics at his beck and call?

The government should not take lightly Erap's wife Sen. Loi Estrada's call on his followers to stay calm for now. That was probably a signal that if the government continued to detain her husband then there's no reason for his followers to stay calm.

***

When he was still at the helm, former President Ramos gave so many concessions to Moro leader Nur Misuari, including handing him the governorship of the Moro region on a silver platter.

His subordinate at the time said it was for the sake of pacifying the Moros that Mr. Ramos had to humor Misuari. That's how pragmatic Ramos, an excellent military intelligence officer, was in dealing with the Moro problem.

But it seems he is not equally pragmatic in the face of the Erap problem.

Mukhang mas magaling pa si Press Undersecretary Manuel Sanchez kay Mr. Ramos. Sanchez, a former politician, said letting Erap leave the country could be the "practical and pragmatic solution."

***

Erap's admission that he signed as Jose Velarde in the controversial bank account did not earn him pogi points among his supporters in Congress.

He has buried himself deeper in muck. The plan to allow him to go to United States to have his defective es—a result of too much abuse—d might not push through after all. Many congressmen who signed the resolution to have him undergo knee surgery in the United States are taking back their signatures.

There's a word in Tagalog to aptly describe Erap for his admission: Gago.

***

Contractor Manuel T. Francia Sr. has been in jail since Jan. 31 on a "no bail" detention.

He was ordered held without bail by Judge Pedro de Leon Gutierrez of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court.

***

You see, Francia is accused of having issued bouncing checks. Because of bad business, he couldn't immediately make amends in his issuance of the bad checks.

Many businessmen who issued check guarantees when the economic downturn took place four years ago have been suffering much. Particularly victimized by the economic slowdown are those in the middle class who have had to give up their homes, pull their children out of school, sell their cars and even have their phone lines and power utilities cut off.

Some of these businessmen issued checks which later bounced not to put one over other people but because they though that the diminishing money in the bank could be replenished.

All the harassment in the books is being put to bear on Francia for not being able to pay his debt.

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3B songs stolen from Internet each month, says Grammy boss

LOS ANGELES—Recording Academy President C. Michael Greene used his speech at last Wednesday's Grammy Awards to lobby for an end to rampant electronic music-swapping, which he said is damaging the recording industry.

"This illegal file-sharing and ripping of music is pervasive, out of control and it's oh so criminal," Greene said.

The industry complains that record sales are plummeting and profit margins are thin, largely because of the illegal swapping of music files over the Internet.

To illustrate how easy it is to steal music, Grammy officials hired three computer-savvy students to test how many songs they could download from illegal file-sharing websites. In two days, the students grabbed nearly 6,000 songs, Greene said.

He used the exercise to demonstrate how copyright violations are costing the recording industry millions of dollars in lost compact disc sales.

"That's three kids, folks," Greene said. "Now multiply that by millions of students and other computer users, and the problem comes into sharp focus. Songwriters, singers, musicians, labels, publishers. The entire music food chain is at serious risk."

The Recording Industry Association of America, which represents most record companies, estimates that people illegally download 3.6 billion songs each month.

Many computer users who download free music say they're protesting the high cost of CDs, which sell for up to $18 but cost a fraction of that to produce. Record labels say the fee reflects expensive recording sessions and promotional campaigns necessary to popularize the music.

But the real victims are musicians, Greene said, particularly newcomers.

"Many of the nominees tonight, especially the new and less established artists, are in immediate danger of being marginalized out of our business," he said.

"Ripping (music files) is stealing their livelihood one digital file at a time, leaving their musical dreams haplessly snared in this World Wide Web of theft and indifference." **AP**

Michael Jackson invests $20M to produce, co-direct movies

TORONTO—Michael Jackson's Neverland Entertainment is putting as much as $20 million into a Montreal company that will operate a new movie production division called Neverland Pictures.

Mark Damon, chief executive of MDP Worldwide Entertainment Inc., said the deal announced Monday would allow MDP to produce major films with Jackson's involvement.

Jackson, who will become a major shareholder in MDP, has appeared in films including "The Wiz" and also intends to co-direct a film with Canadian filmmaker Bryan Michael Stoller.

According to Damon, Jackson will be a producer, actor and director for Neverland Pictures.

"Films have always been a passion for me," Jackson said in a statement. "There is nothing in the world like the magic captured forever in a time capsule like motion picture images."

Damon, an independent producer and distributor, has been involved in films including "9 1/2 Weeks," "Never Say Never Again," and "Prizzi's Honor."

He and Jackson were introduced by Raju Sharad Patel, Jackson's partner in Neverland Entertainment.

MDP is "in a stronger position because we've had a capital infusion by Michael Jackson and because his name will make our company so much more visible," Damon said. **AP**

A little more of Larusso

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

PARDONEZ moi for sounding like a broken CD already, but just like any true blue fanatic, I can't get enough of my newest idol **Larusso**.

I'm really in a French state of mind because of her music. After meeting the French chanteuse, I admired her even more. She's so unaffected by all the fame. Success could not have found a more deserving person.

I immensely enjoyed her show at NBC's The Tent at The Fort. I spotted **Eric Quizon** and **Pops Fernandez**'s French beau **Jacques Depasquier**, to name a few, watching the show.

Larusso sang her signature song "On Ne S'aimera Plus Jamais" twice, much to the delight of the audience. Her second self-titled album shows much promise. This early, I can already predict that the first three songs in her latest album will be big hits: "Entre Nous," "Tous UNis" and "Prends Garde a Toi" have a catchy danceable melody that Pinoys would love to groove to.

I share with you more snippets from my Larusso encounter.

How do you handle days when you're not in the mood to sing?

I'm never not in a singing mood. I don't drag myself out of bed every morning and grumble, "Ugh! I have to sing today!" For me, it's not a job. It's what I really love doing. I even stopped school when I was 16 (she's now 22) because my love for music took over.

This is not meant to be a good example for kids out there to follow but I guess we all have our own dreams. When I was in school I would not be listening to my teacher 'cause the Walkman was blaring in my ears so when she would call me, my classmates had to nudge me. I was so caught up in my love for music. Look where it's brought me.

How different is your second self-titled album (released by EMI-Virgin Phils.) from your first, "Simplement"?

Each album offers something special. Before I recorded my second album, I drove around Paris asking people what they wanted me to sing about. Love, country, poverty, religion, power, homosexuality or whatever. I want to make an intimate connection with my audience.

I have this gift of being able to tell if someone loves me or not. I can feel it in my bones if someone is just trying to be nice. It's almost psychic in a way.

Guess list

GUESS who this upcoming singer is who had a *menage a trois* with a bunch of young actors in Cebu. On stage, he's bent on being known as a solo performer but it looks like he prefers back-up male partners in the bedroom. Of course, that's something he will never "vocalize" about.

Guess who this matinee idol is who caused the split-up of a buffed and good-looking director and his wife. Insiders claim that the wife flew to the US after she discovered the affair of her husband and the actor. Let's see if the director will take directions back to his wife or take a detour to his paramour actor's arms.

Guess who this PBA cager is who refuses to give support to his two kids and even borrowed money from his ex-wife. The girl lamented to me: "He used to give support regularly but when I stopped giving in to his sexual advances, he stopped fulfilling his obligations to our kids. I find that odd because our marriage has been annulled and he already has two kids with his live-in partner now so what does he want me for? I have cut ties with him already but that does not mean that he should stop being a father to our kids. I guess *na*-karma *na siya* because now he does not have a team and had to sell some of his cars. He thought he'd be on top forever. For old times' sake I even lent him P100,000."

Salsa Fuego

SALSA Manila Inc. invites you to an all-night salsa dance evening, "Salsa Fuego," a night of Latino fire and passion at the Siete Pecados Westin Phil. Plaza, March 8 and 15, starting at 8 p.m. Enjoy Latin dance instructions and exhibitions. A fund-raising activity to support the Philippine delegation to the first annual HK salsa congress on March 21. For more details, call 645-7536 or 46, or text 0919-386-9909. *Vamos a bailar!*

For feeback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

Best show in town

VIEWFINDE

Nestor U. Torre

TAKE our word for it: the best show in town this week is "Cirque" at the Araneta Coliseum. The sad thing is, very few people seem to know about it, or care to see it.

That's really a great pity, because the few people who saw it with us some days ago were thrilled by the production, and couldn't stop raving about it.

Well, it isn't too late: the spectacular show ends its run on March 10, so you still have a few more days to give yourself a big treat and see it. Maybe this little write-up can help boost the show's audience and give it the good houses it deserves.

In fact, it should get *huge* crowds, so that it can get extended, so more people here can get a chance to enjoy it. But, first things first: let's see what we can do to help the show get a good audience until March 10:

"Cirque" is an especially exciting and gratifying show because it is a brilliant mix of traditional circus fare like gymnasts and contortionists and stuff, and artistic and balletic motifs, and fantastical fairytale creatures and effects, *and* droll comedy—etc.!

The show beggars description because it is unique to itself. When it showcases "impossible" feats of human strength, dexterity and brilliance, it does so not just for the utter thrill that such feats elicit, but to show us our own untapped potential as God's most amazing creations, His angels on earth.

The "angels" in "Cirque" fly as a matter of course, no big deal, on gossamer wings of beauty, courage and trust in one another. They show us the utmost that the human body is capable of not just to put on a show, but as an act of love, of beautiful sharing.

Their bodies must hurt from all that straining, but so do the palms of our hands from applauding them.

There's a lot to applaud in "Cirque," gravity-defying acts that come one after another, each more awesome and incredible than the one before. Then, just as you think the ultimate has been achieved, another performer appears to push the limits even further!

Until, when the evening finally draws to a close, two men painted gold just like the Oscar trophies (how timely!) cap the show with a slow, almost meditative, bravura display of manly strength, pliability and spirit of working together.

All of these brilliant physical feats are taken to a higher level by the imaginative context that the show's production values provide. Watching "Cirque" is like entering a dreamlike world that is both childlike and sophisticated, where humans "fly" overhead, even as in one corner a worldly-wise soprano sings, and in another, four giant worms do a funnily sinuous dance!

It this heady mix of physical super-feats, art and wriggly delights that makes "Cirque" unique—and a show you shouldn't miss.

Some tickets are reasonably-priced. Even if you see the show from a distance, it should have a lot to share with you, to inspire you with its unique showcase of this marvel called man, and the incredible things his body can do—not to mention his mind and heart.

Graduation recital

REVEL Eleazar Tica, an ordained minister and singer, will give his third and final recital as a prerequisite to a Master's degree in voice at 7 p.m. on March 19 at the UP College of Music's Abelardo Hall.

Along with other singers, he will perform the opera "Amelia Al Ballo" by **Gian Carlo Menotti**. He will also include in his recital a solo song cycle by **Rosendo Santos**, "Four Poems for A Child's Future." Admission is free. Call the Malabon International Baptist Church at 288-8274.

Feedback

FROM **Nhowell Martinez** of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: "We don't fail to watch "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" here on TFC, Fridays at 11 a.m. The 'Songbook' episode was brilliant and engaging. We especially wish to commend **Aiza Seguerra** and **Roderick Paulate**. Even the supporting cast led by **Matet de Leon** deserve resounding applause.

"The drama is a replica of the real facts of life. The values and upbringing of the children depict what kind of society we have today. Some tend to be very judgmental when, in fact, their own families suffer in comparison.

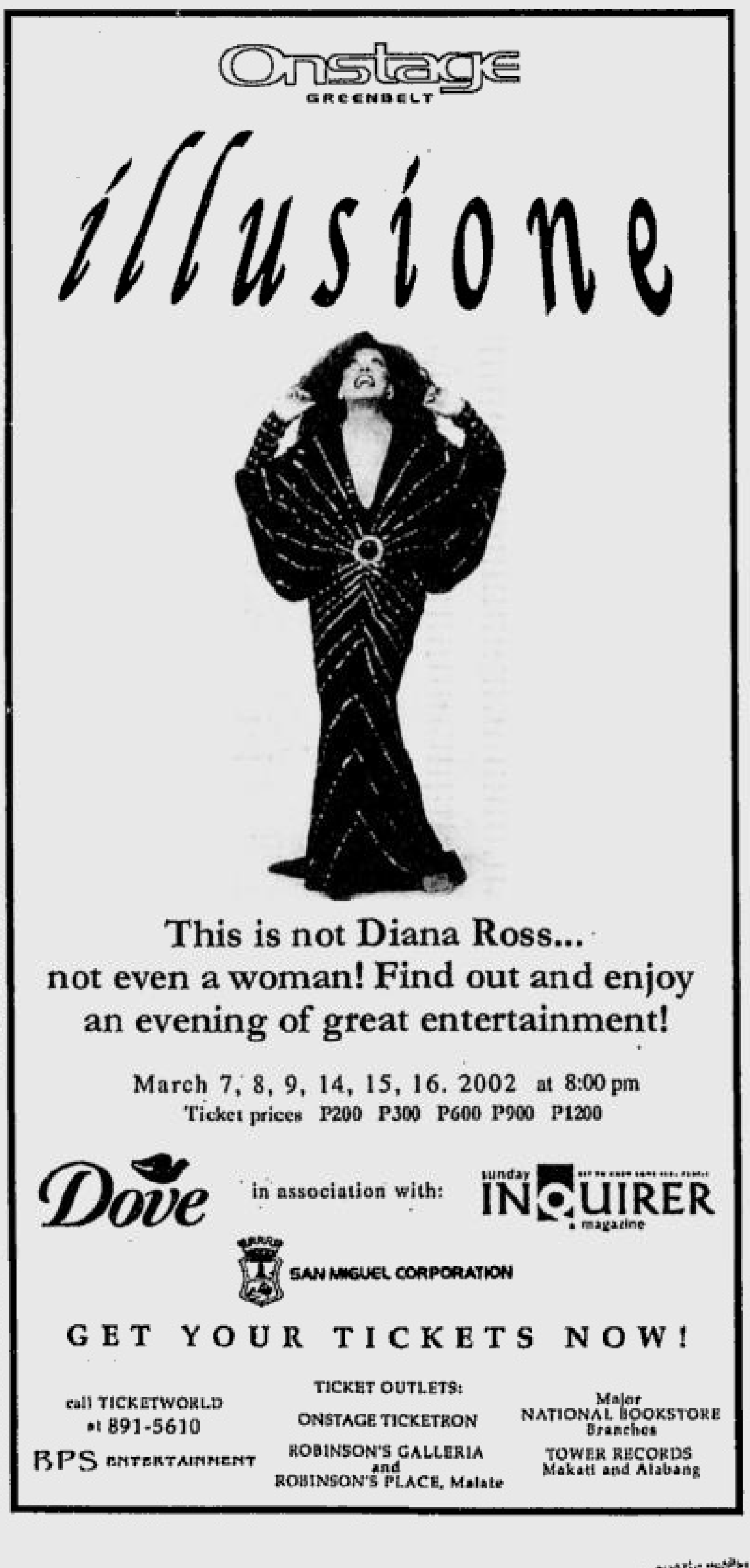
"Kudos to 'MMK' for uplifting viewers' awareness of the kind of society we live in."

Animé on IBC-13

VIVA TV is treating viewers to new animé films on IBC-13: "Crayon Shin Chan" from 8 to 8:30 p.m., "Monday to Friday, and "Cyborg Kurochan" at 8:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Shin Chan is a boy who is full of mischief. He's Bart Simpson, Dennis the Menace and Freddy Kruger rolled up into one!

For his part, Kurochan uses high-tech gadgetry to fight the evil Dr. Go, who wants to take over the world. The series topped Japanese TV ratings when it premiered in 1999.



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'Trash en Traffic' TV show launched

A TELEVISION special called "Trash en Traffic," the country's first TV "info-magazine" that aims to inform the public on the two urgent subjects, was launched last Feb. 24 on Channel 13.

"Trash en Traffic," which will be a weekly show, is designed to observe, investigate, expose and pinpoint trash and traffic problems and try to look for solutions, according to producer Antonio Balmori Villegas, president and founder of Mettro (Movement for Efficient Trash and Traffic Road Order).

Raymond Iacovacci, founder, president and creative director of Iacovacci Media Int'l., directs and writes the script. Iacovacci is a filmmaker and animator from Hollywood who directed "The King and I," "The Scarecrow," and "Trumpet of the Swan."

ANTONIO B. Villegas, the man behind the new show.

Baldomero "Bobby" Colet Jr. and actress Chin-Chin Gutierrez host the new program.

Colet is manager of B.V. Colet Insurance Corp. and radio commentator. His daily radio show on dzME, "Bobby Colet Live," is an issue-oriented program that airs from Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Villegas cites studies that show the country is losing P50 billion a year due to productivity losses in terms of lateness and absenteeism, and wastage of crude oil, among others. The hours wasted in traffic in the metropolis cause the Filipino to lose 10 years of his life, he says.

Villegas is an Ateneo graduate and is a specialist in intelligence information and traffic. He has acquired 20 years of expertise in hands-on traffic management. He was the chair of Color Code, better known as the Vehicular Reduction Scheme, and was consultant adviser to Gen. Romeo Maganto who was then traffic czar of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

He was also consultant to two former transportation secretaries and was recently traffic affairs consultant to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza Jr.

The "Trash en Traffic" special was sponsored by Caltex Phil. and McCann Ericsson Advertising.

Bikini summit 2002 championship in Boracay

MEN and women with beautiful bodies are lining up to join the year's most-awaited summer event, the "Mossimo Bikini Summit (The Boracay Bikini Championship at the Pearl of the Pacific)."

Presented by Mossimo and Pearl of the Pacific, the "Mossimo Bikini Summit" is open to males and females of all nationalities, a first in the contest's history.

Potential candidates with bodies to die for are urged to beat the screening deadline. Organizers will accept contestants only until March 8.

Those who pass the screening will participate in a series of elimination rounds at Metro Manila's top bars and nightspots.

The elimination round kicks off March 11 at the Hard Rock Café Makati, 8th Day (March 12), Famous Mike's (March 13) and Culture Club (March 14).

Winners of the elimination round will be flown to Boracay, all expenses paid, for the finals night on April 20. The contestants will stay at the Pearl of the Pacific Resort.

Prizes in cash and in kind—and a possible shot at a modeling career—await the winners.

Contestants must be aged 18 to 25, with proportionate body measurements, good looks and a vibrant personality. Minimum height requirement for male is 5'8", while female contestants must be at least 5'4".

The finals night will be taped as live on April 20 and aired on May 10 (Friday) over ABC-5, from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Theme of this year's contest is "Unity in Diversity—the World's Colors in Boracay." It is a tribute to the diverse nationalities that made Boracay a world-famous tourist destination.

Application forms are available at all Mossimo branches. Interested candidates should submit two photos (one full body and one close up) with the application form.

The contest is also sponsored by Air Philippines.

For more details on screening and sponsorship, call cast&crew at 718-1032 or (0917) 253-6753.

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9 ALI
10 ESKANDALOSA

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8 MARSHALL DICK

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A BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 ESKANDALOSA
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2
3
4 ESKANDALOSA
5 13 GHOSTS
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE
7 (DTS) A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8 (SDDS) NOT ANOTHER TEEN
9 (DOLBY) WE WERE SOLDIERS

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 ESKANDALOSA

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
3 ESKANDALOSA
4 (SDDS) BATAS NG LANSANGAN
5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 (DOLBY) WE WERE SOLDIERS
7 (DTS) A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8 13 GHOSTS
9 ALI

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 ESKANDALOSA
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 (SDDS) A BEAUTIFUL MIND
6 WE WERE SOLDIERS
7 (DOLBY) NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
8 ALI

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS) A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 ESKANDALOSA
5 (SDDS) WE WERE SOLDIERS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson ESKANDALOSA
Lords ESKANDALOSA
Jennet

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 ESKANDALOSA

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3 RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 ESKANDALOSA

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 ESKANDALOSA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 GOT 2 BELIVE
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 (DTS) A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
2 (DTS) GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DOLBY) BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (DOLBY) A BEAUTIFUL MIND
3 (DTS) NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 (DOLBY) MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 APOY SA MAGDAMAG
3 ESKANDALOSA
4 (DTS) WE WERE SOLDIERS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS) A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 13 GHOSTS
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 ALI
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (DTS) BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 KATE & LEOPOLD
3 SHALLOW HAL
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) SHALLOW HAL
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS) A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 BATAS NG LANSANAGAN

***Movies are subject to change without prior notice**

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL
Mile Long Compound, Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City
E-Mail: premiere@pworld.com
For VIP, Gold, Silver membership
For reservations, pls. call 751-2010 to 13

PREMIERE CINEMA THX **NOW SHOWING**

RUSSELL CROWE

A BEAUTIFUL MIND

ED HARRIS

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632- 9115- 16 633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 WE WERE SOLDIERS
4 13 GHOSTS
5 BEAUTIFUL MIND
6 NOT ANOTHER TEEN
7 SHALLOW HAL
8 GOT 2 BELIEVE
9 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
10 ALI

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4 13 GHOSTS
5 BEAUTIFUL MIND
6 NOT ANOTHER TEEN
7 WE WERE SOLDIERS

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1 ALI
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 NOT ANOTHER TEEN
5 13 GHOSTS
6 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
7 GOT 2 BELIEVE
8 ESKANDALOSA

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 GOT BELIEVE
4 13 GHOSTS
5 BEAUTIFUL MIND
6 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
7 ESKANDALOSA
8 ALI

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 NOT ANOTHER TEEN
4 BEAUTIFUL MIND
5 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1 KATE & LEOPOLD
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 THE OTHERS
4 RIDING IN CARS
5 FROM HELL
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1 THE OTHERS
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 MARSHALL DICK
4 RIDING IN CARS
5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 RAT RACE

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927

1 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
2 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
3 SHALLOW HAL
4 SHALLOW HAL
5 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
6 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

malabon citisquare- soon to open.

BEST PICTURE
BEST ACTOR
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
BEST SCREENPLAY
A BEAUTIFUL MIND

LATE NIGHT SCREENING @ GALLERIA THX
MAR. 8-9, 2002
11:00pm.

how-2-reach-us:
email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Filmmakers 'very excited'

By Jerome Aning

A TOTAL of 41 scripts have been submitted by filmmakers to the screening committee of the Manila Film Festival, which Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has revived starting this year.

"The response of movie production outfits was very enthusiastic," Atienza said last Tuesday. "They are very excited."

The deadline for submission of scripts was last Friday.

This year's MMF is set for June 12 to 24, and will feature a maximum of only five films.

Former presidential adviser Lito Banayo is head of the festival's screening committee.

Members are Manila Councilors Kim Atienza, Miles Roces, Luciano "Lou" Veloso and Martin "Marjun" Isidro Jr., Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila president Benjamin Tayabas, Philippson Chua of the Metro Manila Theater Assocation, Raul Camiligan of the SM Cinemas, and June Rufino.

Major movie outfits Regal, Viva, Star Cinema, Crown Seven, FLT and Maverick were among those who submitted scripts for screening. Jaguar Productions USA, a New York-based movie outfit, also submitted two scripts.

The scripts tackle subjects that range from comedy, action and drama to romance and thrillers.

The decision to revive the MMF this year after a two-year gap was reached during a meeting with industry members at the Manila City Hall last month. The annual film festival was organized in the '60s during the time of the late Mayor Antonio Villegas.

Atienza said he made it clear to producers that the MMF should feature quality films and contribute to value formation, especially among the youth.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GOT 2 BELIEVE IN MAGIC
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	ALI
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	NOT ANOTHER TEEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	13 GHOSTS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	ESKANDALOSA
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	WE WERE SOLDIERS
ODEON-2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ROBEN	ESKANDALOSA
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE / AMERICAN PIE 2

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ESKANDALOSA
REMAR	ESKANDALOSA
REMAR-2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	GOT 2 BELIEVE IN MAGIC
B	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
C	ISKANDALOSA

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-2	EIGA SAI FILM FESTIVAL

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
CINEMA-2	ESKANDALOSA
CINEMA-3	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ALI
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	HINOG SA PILIT
CINEMA-8	SHALLOW HAL
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
CINEMA-12	13 GHOSTS
CINEMA-14	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-15	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-2	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-3	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-4	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
CINEMA-5	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-6	A BEAUTIFUL MIND

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

GOT 2 BELIEVE - GP 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	A BEAUTIFUL MIND - P13 1:05, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35	WE WERE SOLDIERS - P 13 11:00, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 10:00
NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	WE WERE SOLDIERS - P 13 12:40, 3:25, 6:10, 9:00	A BEAUTIFUL MIND - P13 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

RELAX & SEE A MOVIE

AYALA MALLS ENTERTAINMENT

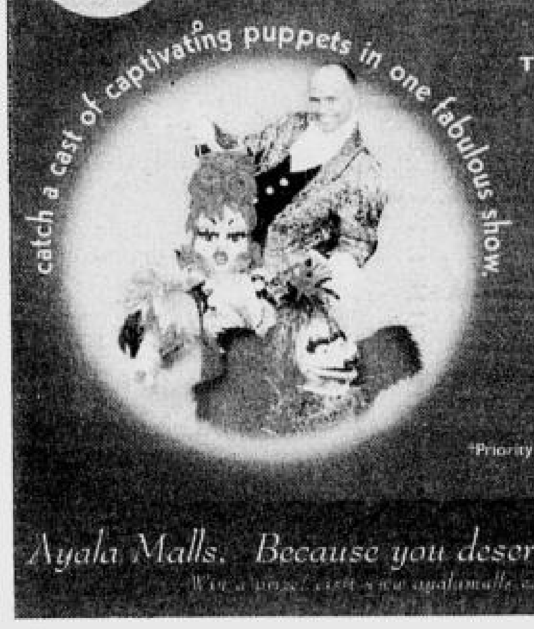
AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING
YOUR 24 HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS • 729-7777
All Digital Sound

G1 Great Price (GLORIETTA 1)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN	1 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE	4 SALSA	1 AMORES PERROS (Exclusive Screening)	1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS	2 ALI	5 SHALLOW HAL	2 A BEAUTIFUL MIND	2 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
3 ALI	3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND GUARANTEED SEATS	6 WE WERE SOLDIERS	3 ALI	3 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE		7 13 GHOSTS	4 Onstage ILLUSIONE MARCH 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16	4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
				5 ALI

The Ayala mall Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI ALABANG CEBU


catch a cast of captivating puppets in one fabulous show.

THE MURRAY RAINE PUPPET SHOW

MAKATI
March 22, 23 & 24 - 4:30pm, 5:30pm & 6:30pm
At the Glorietta 4 Park.
For inquiries, call 813-3396.

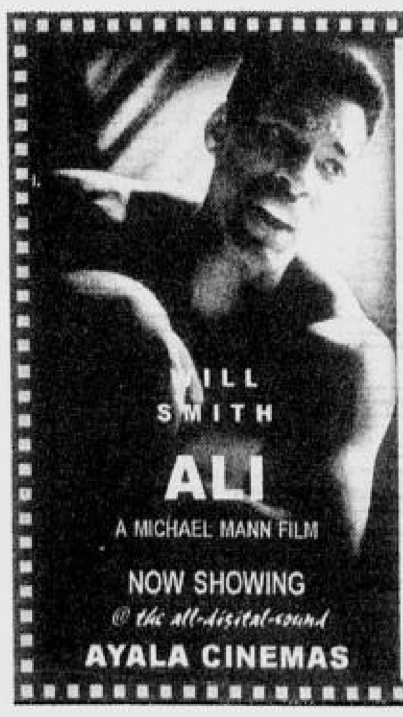
ALABANG
March 15, 16 &17 - 11:00am, 3:30pm, & 6:30pm
At the Activity Center.
For inquiries, call 842-2782.

10-to-10 Mallwide Sale - March 15, 16 & 17

CEBU
March 8 - 5:30pm, 6:30pm, & 7:30pm
March 9 - 3:30pm, 5:30pm, & 6:30pm
March 10 - 11am, 4pm, & 6pm
At the Activity Center.
For inquiries, call 213-5342 loc. 0.

*Priority seating for Discount Plus Cardholders. First come, first served

Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more.



What Drives You
THE POWER TO BREAK FREE!
Witness the lifestory of the greatest boxer ever and play Timezone's REAL PUNCHER machine for FREE!

Plus! Get the chance to win a complete boxing gear from Caltex & Rustans or gift certificates from Red Corner Fitness & Boxing Club!

Valid only for every 2 ALI tickets purchased at
Glorietta 4 Cinemas!

This only happens at the best movie place, the all-digital-sound Ayala Cinemas!
Promo Period is from March 1-14, 2002.

Vortex AYALA CINEMAS Rustan's TIMEZONE SKYFILMS
PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. AI-139, SERIES OF 2002

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GREENBELT
Art Film
NOW SHOWING

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE
BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM

"A fiercely brilliant film of such wrenching impact, nonstop drive and unpredictability that watching it becomes an exhilarating ride."
-- Michael Wilmington
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

WINNER - BEST FILM !
2001 ARIELS / TOKYO INT FILMFEST / BOGOTA FILMFEST / BOSTON SOCIETY / BRITISH ACADEMY / CAMERIMAGE / CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL / FANTASPORTO / INDEPENDENT SPIRIT / NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW(USA)

A boldly conceived and intricately plotted drama of love, loss, retribution and redemption, *AMORES PERROS* has already been hailed by the NEW YORK TIMES as "the first classic of the new decade." Ever since its acclaimed and award-winning world premiere at Cannes, this directorial debut by Alejandro González Iñárritu has made a sensation on the international film festival circuit, where it has been praised as a film of outstanding power, originality, and raw beauty. It has also won a stunning array of prizes from both juries and audiences alike, proclaiming not only its impressive artistic achievements, but also its undeniable and visceral power to excite people in new and unexpected ways.

AMORES PERROS raises provocative questions about the human condition at the same time that the film daringly recapitulates and reinvents different styles of Latin cinema. The result is a vivid and intricate mosaic of classic themes rendered in original -- and unforgettable ways.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)

NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
12:35, 3:20, 6:05, 8:50
P 13

CINEMA 2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
R 18

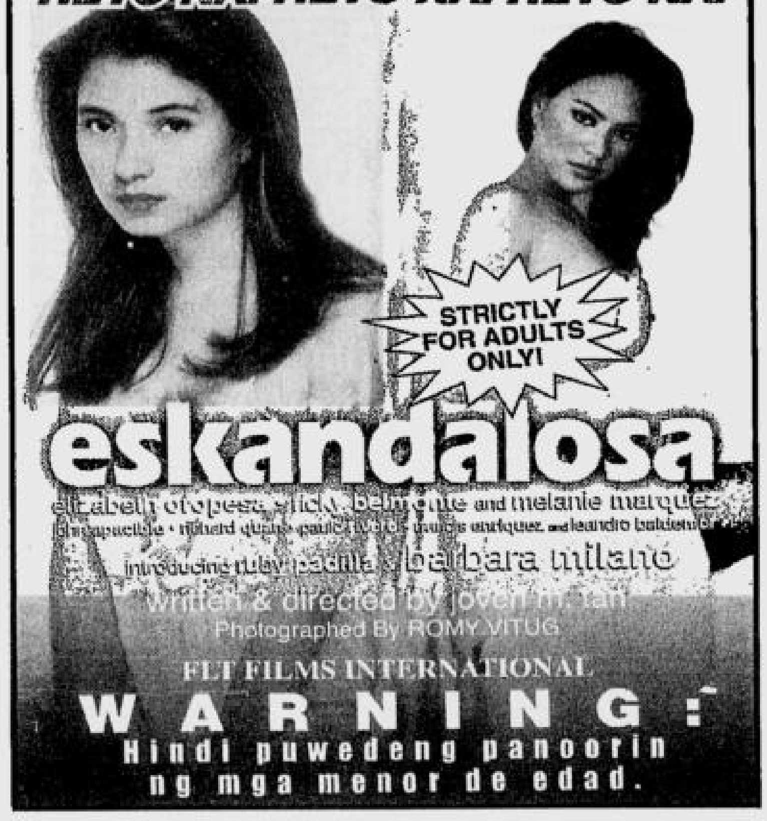
Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
Reserved Seating: P120.00 - After 5:00pm; Saturday, Sunday, Holidays
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

MUSIC MUSEUM
MUSIC MUSEUM March 8, 2002 PINAY MUSICFEST 9:00 PM
March 9, 2002 ROCK AGAINST PIRACY
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL :

MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictlyfor ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted

NOW SHOWING

HETO NA! HETO NA! HETO NA!


STRICTLY FOR ADULTS ONLY!

eskandalosa

elizabeth oropesa, vicky belmonte and melanie marquez
introducing ruby padilla · barbara milano
written & directed by joven m. tan
Photographed By ROMY VITUG
FLT FILMS INTERNATIONAL

WARNING:
Hindi puwedeng panoorin ng mga menor de edad.

Warning! Too hot for kids, for adults only!
In the tradition of SCARY MOVIE comes a spoof of the sexiest teen comedy movies!

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING R Restricted | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

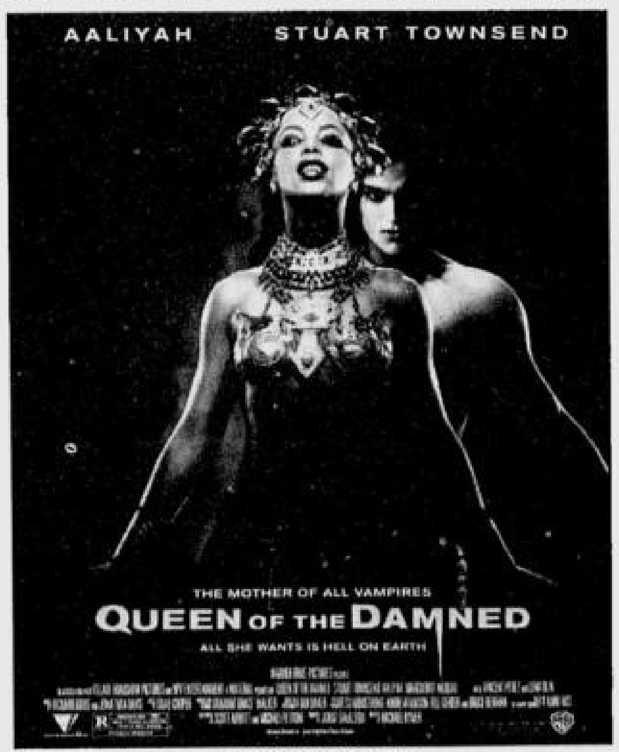
NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE

They served you *Breakfast*. They gave you *Pie*. Now we're gonna stuff your face.

sony.com/NotAnotherTeen

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

See it first!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING


AALIYAH
STUART TOWNSEND
THE MOTHER OF ALL VAMPIRES
QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
ALL SHE WANTS IS HELL ON EARTH

MTRCB RATING: P13

Invitational K-Lite Screening on
March 7, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 1

Regular showing on Mar. 13 at the SM CINEMAS.

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◆ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Ban on second-hand imports pushed

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

DOMESTIC manufacturers are urging the government to ban the importation of second-hand appliances, garments and vehicles that are threatening to turn the Philippines into a dumping ground.

Federation of Philippine Industries chair Raul T. Concepcion said the influx of pre-owned items in the country has compounded the problems of domestic manufacturers that are struggling to prepare themselves to compete with imports in a free-trade block. The Asean Free Trade Area, which will lower duties on most manufactured goods to no more than 5 percent, will start next year.

Concepcion said the retail outlets for pre-owned appliances, apparel and vehicles have sprouted all over the country and this has made them a threat to manufacturers of brand new products.

Business groups representing the appliance, vehicle and garments industries have petitioned the government to address the surge in second-hand imports in the past few years.

The second-hand market has become a threat to manufacturers with the economic slowdown that has depressed sales of appliances such as refrigerators, television sets, and air conditioners and new vehicles.

Concepcion said manufacturers needed a strong domestic base to compete with imports, and the government's failure to curb second-hand imports would only ensure the downfall of industries with the liberalized entry of imports.

While the market for pre-owned goods gives consumers a cheaper alternative, Concepcion said the government should also consider the damage that these items inflict not only on industries but also on consumer welfare and the environment.

Concepcion said that the second-hand imported items were sold without complying with the government's standards on quality and environment protection.

If the government does not put its foot down on the importation of used products, Concepcion said the country could easily become the rich countries' wastebasket for their old clothes, appliances and vehicles.

The Department of Trade and Industry is now preparing the groundwork for the government's plan to take legal action against auctioneers of second-hand, imported vehicles which it wanted to shut down because these were driving American and Japanese assemblers out of business.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said he believed that these importation and auctions (in Subic, Valenzuela and Malinta) were illegal "and we are currently looking into what legal action to take against these auctioneers."

San Miguel names Ang president

By Elena R. Torrijos

ANG

SAN Miguel Corp. yesterday announced that its board had elected vice chair Ramon Ang as president and chief operating officer.

Ang replaces Francisco Eizmendi who has just retired after serving the food and beverage conglomerate for 45 years.

Seen as the right hand man of SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Ang has been with SMC since Cojuangco's comeback into the company in 1998.

In an interview yesterday, Ang said that SMC would still retain the same focus and forecasts given that the management team remained intact.

He pointed out that Eizmendi would still be playing an important part in the operations of SMC as consultant to the office of the chair.

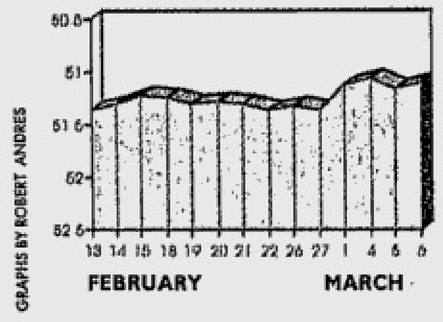
SMC also announced the election of two new members of its board who will represent Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. following the Japanese brewer's acquisition of a 15-percent stake in SMC.

Elected at a special board meeting yesterday were Naomichi Asano, chief executive officer of Kirin International and managing director of Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd., and Shigeki Ota, chief operating officer of Kirin International. They replaced Eizmendi and Faustino Galang.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.09 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 6, 2002

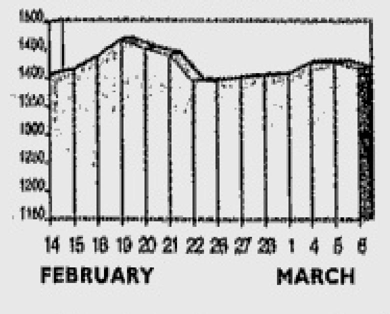
¥131.86 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 6, 2002

GOLD: $293.60/294.10

per ounce Hong Kong, March 6, 2002

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCK MARKET

Share down 0.7%

SHARE prices closed 0.7 percent lower yesterday on profit taking after previous gains and a decline on Wall Street, brokers said.

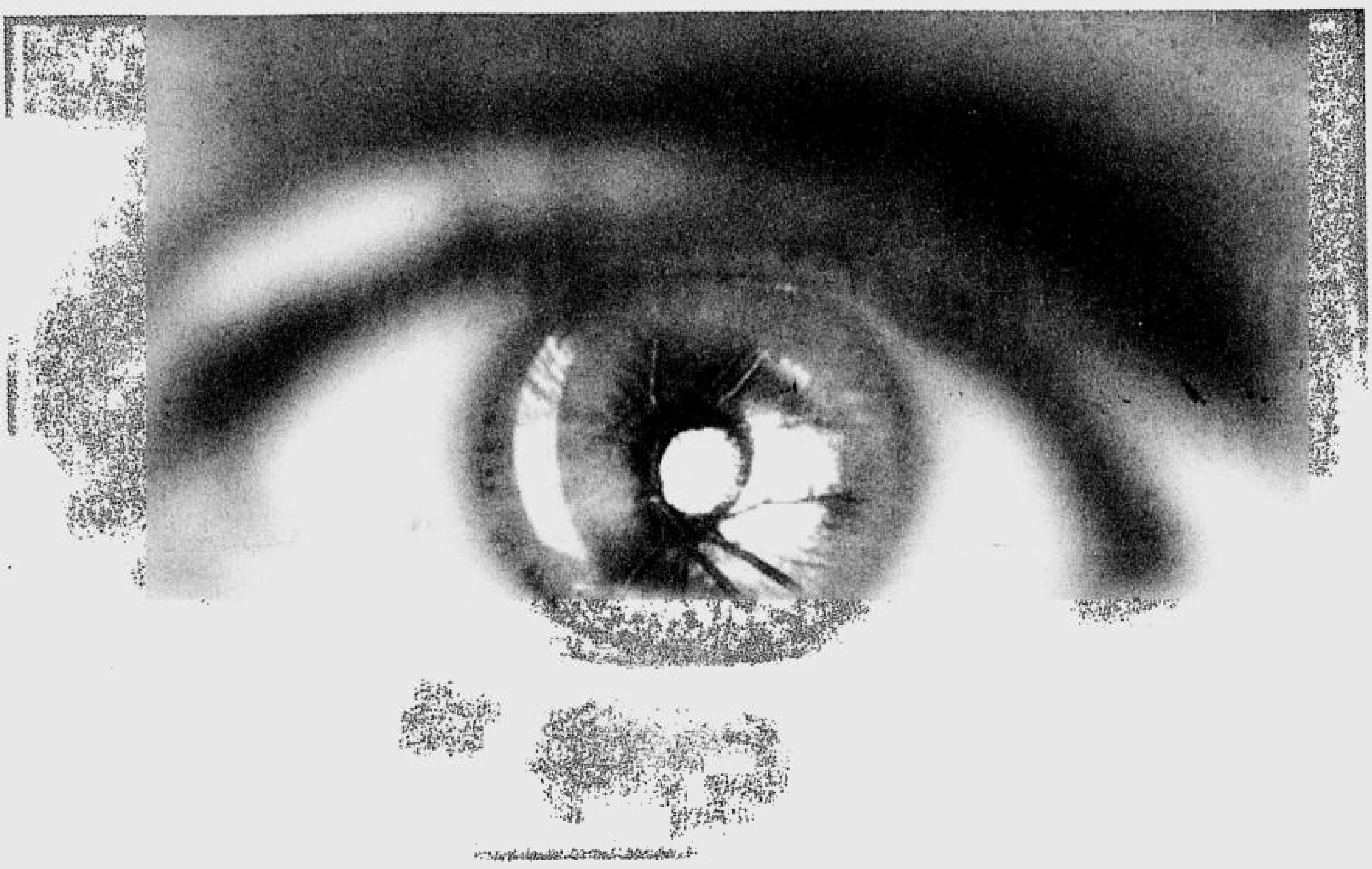
The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 9.7 points to 1,418.54.

Turnover fell to 527.6 million shares worth P469.18 million from Tuesday's 1.775 billion shares valued at P693 million.

"The outlook for the long-term is still bullish," said Teresa Lee-Jahrling of Tower Securities. "We just need this consolidation phase because the market was very strong in January and February."

Property firms Ayala Land and Filinvest Land led the declines Wednesday, losing 10 centavos to P6.90 and 8 centavos to P2.26, respectively. *AFP*

Do you have glaucoma but don't know it?



Let Asian Eye detect and control it... using the latest diagnostic, laser and surgical equipment.

Glaucoma is one of those diseases that are usually detected late. That's because it doesn't always cause pain, if at all. About the only sign you get is that you wake up one day and find that your peripheral vision is gone. Glaucoma can run in the family. It cannot be cured, but if detected early enough, can be controlled.

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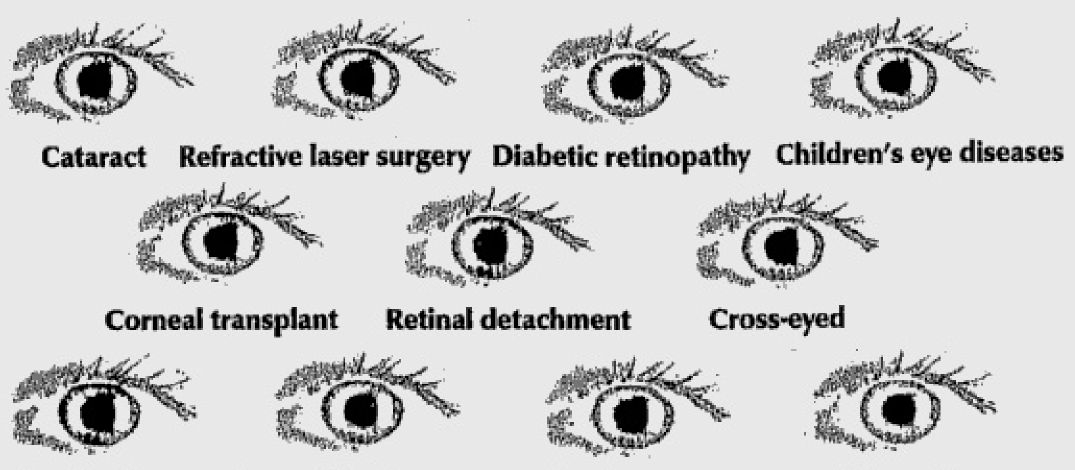

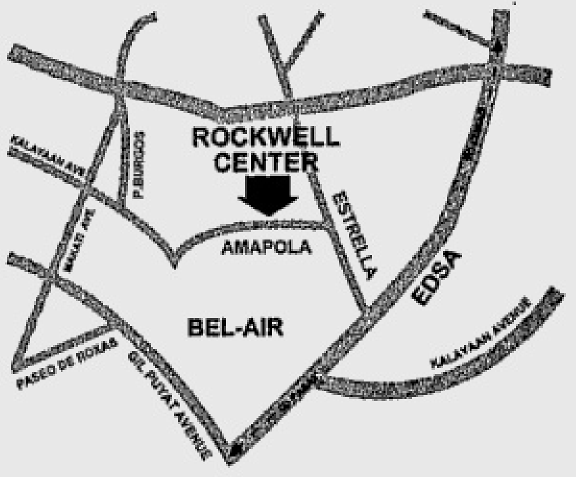

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Aba, aba, black ship

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

HERE at my home, everybody works hard to review faxes from my sources. We verify the contents. Most of them are highly sensitive and controversial materials.

We check and double check, for example, and then check again, many times over, if they contain any money.

No, wait, that's not what I want to say! I only want to say that we, all of us in the news business, are all honest, hardworking and prayerful men, women and others.

Honest, nobody accepts any money from ex-actors.

* * *

YESTERDAY I wasted a lot of fax paper on the privilege speech of Bulacan Rep. (as in "representative" and not "referee") Willie Buyson Villarama.

The guy belongs to a powerful group in Congress. It's the Aksyon Demokratiko. It's the political party of Education Secretary Raul Roco, the poster model himself.

In the House of Representatives alone, the party boasts of a strong potent alliance of not less than, well, TWO congressmen, namely, Willie and Roco's brother.

Apparently, anyway, Willie's staff thought I care about all the foolishness that's going on at the Philippine Ports Authority. They sent me a copy of his speech.

It is useless for my column today. I want to talk about the talk of the town, the burning issue of the day, which is all the noise in politics. We haven't had enough of it.

Basically, Willie only got to the core of why we spend half of our pay on food. It's the high shipping cost. This is all thanks to corruption. So what?

* * *

NOBODY really cares if the PPA, in the past two years, increased cargo-handling rates three times already. Look at that—three times! And only in two years!

Even my prolific mother, who gave birth to nine children, plus three miscarriages, needed time to rest. This PPA is like Ms Rosanna Roces—*walang pahinga*!

Yet the increases were done without real public hearings. If there were, the public took the backseat to private interests. That's not public hearing; that's private hearing.

Now in every rate increase, the PPA gets 10 percent. Officially, okay? It's legal and lawful and legitimate. It's just that 90 percent goes to some private companies.

Yet Glorietta herself, maybe the only President we ever had who still relies on a cock's crow as an alarm clock, promised to lower the cost of moving goods.

Really, she gave it during that "economic summit" a few months ago. Despite her promise, the PPA still raised the rates last January. What more if there was no promise?

* * *

AND so Willie notes that by the time the corn from Mindanao gets to Bulacan, its price is already doubled. It's the worst inflation I have ever seen in my life! Double overnight!

By his computation, out of the total price of corn, the costs of shipping and cargo-handling account for a hefty 35 percent.

And corn even enjoys a discount. For tuna, it's even higher at 50 percent.

Black is black, and roses are red, but—surprise!—shipping companies make more money in handling cargo than they do in operating ships. *Aba*, this is *naman* not *tama*!

* * *

FOR the past two weeks, Felicito Payumo, chair and administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, has been meeting with various business groups.

Tom Payumo told me that he has already met with business leaders, like Raul Concepcion, and heads of business organizations, like Guillermo Luz of the Makati Business Club, together with officials of the Department of Finance.

Finance Undersecretary Antonio Bernardo was one of them. And everybody already knows that Bernardo is the customs commissioner in waiting. He is going to assume the post this month.

Their topic was, well, none other than "smuggling" or, to be precise, the suspicion of smuggling in Tom's turf, the duty-free port in Subic. Among the concerns was the influx of used vehicles from Japan.

In our telephone conversation, Tom was emphatic in saying there is definitely no smuggling of those used vehicles. Not through Subic, anyway. Tom said he always saw to it that all taxes and duties were paid, before they were taken out of the free port.

In fact, based on Tom's computation, taxes and duties reached almost P4 billion last year. This, he said, was on top of the fees and other income of the SBMA itself.

* * *

OKAY, it's hard to argue against cash. Tom put money where his mouth is. I have only the word of local carmakers about the low selling prices of those used vehicles.

Tom said the low prices were not due to low duties and taxes. Everything was based on the so-called blue book or red book value, as assessed by the customs bureau. The rate was fixed for each particular type and model of used vehicles.

The "savings," as Tom put it, came from lower costs of freight since the importers shipped the goods in bulk. They chartered vessels. Moreover, the importers tried to reduce their margins to make the prices attractive to buyers.

And then Tom took a crack at the local carmakers and dealers. They should be investigated, he said, because they do not pay the correct taxes and duties on their importation of CBUs.

Those are the "completely built units." Under the rules, CBUs are slapped higher taxes and duties than, say, CKDs (completely knocked down), which are parts of vehicles shipped from abroad and then assembled here.

You know what, Tom said, the carmakers and the dealers, which in some cases are one and the same, pay CKD rates for imported CBUs! Is this now a case of the pot calling the kettle black?

PLDT scraps talks with NTT, set to sell stake in Smart to AIG

By Doris C. Dumlao and Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has broken off talks to sell 10 percent to 15 percent of its stake in Smart Communications Inc. to NTT DoCoMo of Japan, persons familiar with the matter revealed yesterday.

The country's No. 1 telecommunications firm, however, is set to conclude a deal to sell this month 5 percent of its equity in Smart to American International Group Inc., according to industry sources.

Company sources said NTT pulled out of negotiations with PLDT, as it decided to instead hedge against the impact of an economic slowdown in the United States.

The aborted PLDT-NTT deal would have been an expansion of the existing strategic partnership between the two companies.

NTT already owns a 15-percent interest in PLDT.

PLDT is reportedly considering proposals from other groups, as well as other options to raise cash and meet its debt obligations.

One such group is AIG, which is said to be ready to conclude a deal with PLDT before the Holy Week later this month.

The sale will net for PLDT a sum way below the $300 million it has been hoping to get from NTT, but PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan is unperturbed, according to one company official.

"We don't really need that much (money) from the sale, as Smart's cash flow is very good," the official told the INQUIRER.

He said despite a "sure deal" with AIG, PLDT was still in discussions with a number of financial institutions.

"There are negotiations, but we don't really need to get many partners," the source said.

He said these institutions were those that Pangilinan himself usually talked to. "Those in the Metro Pacific circle," he said.

PLDT is no longer in touch with other telecommunications companies, he disclosed.

Another party that has expressed interest in buying into Smart is the group of tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan.

The INQUIRER reported earlier that Tan was intent on acquiring more than the maximum 20 percent that Pangilinan earlier put on the auction block.

Ayala Land spins off new ₱500-M company focusing on middle market

DIVERSIFYING from its traditional upscale market, property developer Ayala Land Inc. launched yesterday a new P500-million spin-off—Community Innovations Inc.—that would focus on the urban middle-income sector.

In a news briefing, CII president Angela Lacson said Ayala Land's new unit would offer housing units worth about P3.7 million to P6.6 million, significantly below Ayala Land's range.

These units are aimed at young executives and businessmen who earn about P80,000 to P170,000 a month, Lacson said.

Lacson said demand from middle-income families should reach 22,000 in the next three years in Metro Manila alone.

CII's first project is Verdana, a 25-hectare residential subdivision between Las Piñas and Cavite.

The subdivision features California-style houses and is located just 7 km from the upscale Ayala-Alabang area.

The new company is set to sell 571 housing units in Verdana in two phases, Lacon said.

The first phase, involving 241 lots and 50 house-and-lot units, will be launched this year. The second phase will be launched next year and will be completed in two years.

The sizes of the Verdana lots will range from 200 to 398 square meters worth about P1.5 million. The house-and-lot units will cost about P3.7 million to P6.6 million each.

Ayala Land is estimating its capital expenditures for the year at P4.2 billion, which will mostly go to its new residential projects.

Ayala Land chief financial officer Jaime Ysmael said the company spent P2.5 billion for capital expenditures last year. *Reuters*

February foreign reserves down slightly at $16.2B

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday that its preliminary figures showed that the country's gross international reserves as of end-February stood at $16.252 billion, slightly down from $16.299 billion in January.

These reserves is enough to pay for nearly five months worth of imports, a level similar to those held by countries with investment grade ratings, according to the central bank.

The amount is also thrice the amount of debts set to mature in a year's time, it added. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Indonesia to complain to WTO over RP cement duty

JAKARTA—Indonesia plans to complain to the World Trade Organization about a new Philippine import duty on Indonesian cement products, a report said Wednesday.

The Philippines has failed to tell the WTO about the import duty, which has been in effect since December, the Jakarta Post quoted Hatanto Reksodiputro, a senior trade ministry official, as saying.

"The Philippines must conduct an investigation first and provide the Indonesian government with the opportunity to comment before implementing the safeguard measure," Hatanto said.

Officials said the Philippines had introduced an extra import duty of around P20.60 per bag of imported Indonesian cement to protect local producers following a surge in cement imports from Indonesia.

Figures from the Philippines show imports of Indonesian cement reached 369,473 tons in 2000, roughly 23 percent of the total Philippine market.

The figure rose to 944,715 or 50 percent of the market in the first nine months of 2001, the Post said.

The Philippines Cement Manufacturers Corp. have claimed that the Indonesian imports are threatening the survival of local producers.

The Philippines has drafted the required "safeguard" ruling, but it is not yet applicable as it has yet to be lodged with the WTO, Hatanto argued. *AFP*

DISCLOSURE

Mar. 6, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.146132	1.000000	51.1190
Japan	Yen	0.008673	0.007567	0.3868
United Kingdom	Pound	1.633352	1.425100	72.8497
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146951	0.128215	6.5542
Switzerland	Franc	0.676982	0.590667	30.1943
Canada	Dollar	0.722018	0.629961	32.2030
Singapore	Dollar	0.628362	0.548246	28.0258
Australia	Dollar	0.596633	0.520562	26.6106
Bahrain	Dinar	3.040218	2.652590	135.5977
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.305628	0.266660	13.6314
Brunei	Dollar	0.625960	0.546150	27.9186
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000100	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.026306	0.022952	1.1733
UAE	Dirham	0.312068	0.272279	13.9186
Korea	Won	0.000877	0.000765	0.0391
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.872500	44.6013
Brazil	Real	0.491903	0.429185	21.9395
Denmark	Kroner	0.134539	0.117385	6.0006
India	Rupee	0.023574	0.020568	1.0514
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.301614	0.263158	13.4524
Mexico	New Peso	0.126334	0.110226	5.6346
New Zealand	Dollar	0.488256	0.426003	21.7768
Norway	Kroner	0.129828	0.113275	5.7905
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019119	0.016681	0.8527
South Africa	Rand	0.104384	0.091075	4.6557
Sweden	Kroner	0.110857	0.096723	4.9444
Syria	Pound	0.022342	0.019493	0.9965
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032775	0.028596	1.4618
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001226	0.00107	0.0547

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, March 6, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69	69.5	69	69.5	302,700
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32.5	33	32.5	32.5	856,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	213	215	212	215	118,880
Philippine National Bank	64	64	63	63	600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	22,000
Security Bank Corp.	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	21	21	21	21	28,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1390	1415	1390	1415	7,770
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1080	1086	1080	1080	35,330
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33	33	33	33	18,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.72	1,740,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	800	800	800	9,500
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0625	0.0675	0.0625	0.065	15,600,000
Piltel	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	4,720,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	500	505	500	500	18,170
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	80,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	41,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	32	32.5	32	32.5	232,700
Manila Electric Co. B	48.5	49	48	49	947,700
Petron Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.9	1,032,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	60,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.65	2,166,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.37	0.4	0.36	0.4	370,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	380,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	20,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	4,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.25	13.5	198,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.5	61,200
RFM Corp.	1.48	1.56	1.48	1.5	548,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.5	1.72	1.5	1.72	123,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48.5	48	48.5	66,900
San Miguel Corp. B	66	66	65.5	65.5	449,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	250,000
Ayala Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	1,091,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.04	691,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	440,000
APC Group Inc.	0.15	0.17	0.13	0.13	14,570,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	330,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3.15	3.5	3.1	3.5	465,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.83	0.79	0.8	13,800,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.3	1,060,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,020,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	7,190,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.06	1.06	671,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	33	33	32.5	32.5	408,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	90,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.87	0.85	0.86	5,600,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	600,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	850,000
Music Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.33	960,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	150,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	30,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	12,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	4,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	9,000
Pryce Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,600,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	81,400
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	680,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	620,000
Mondragon Intl Phils, Inc.	0.37	0.4	0.37	0.38	400,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	33	33.5	33	33	385,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	785	800	775	775	2,220
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.68	1.7	1.66	1.7	198,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	30,000,000
RFM Corp.-Pref.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	10,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	4,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	4,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	67,000,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	400	400	400	400	80
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	6.9	10,545,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.36	0.44	450,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	210,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.53	0.54	0.52	0.54	8,230,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	3,520,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.32	2.32	2.24	2.26	9,442,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.43	0.43	1,190,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.18	0.18	630,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6	8,975,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	60,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.039	0.039	0.038	0.038	600,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.235	0.22	0.22	8,960,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.235	12,830,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0048	0.005	0.0048	0.0048	216,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	8,300,000
Interport Res. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	500,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,492,880	124,880,370.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	221,836,470	183,338,035.00
PRO	43,392,000	160,875,440.00
Mining	241,460,000	6,256,750.00
OIL	21,800,000	282,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	529,981,350	475,632,995.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	573.40	DOWN 1.06
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,940.43	DOWN 9.09
PRO	616.03	DOWN 12.75
Mining	1,439.37	UP 50.06
OIL	1.87	DOWN 0.04
All Shares Index	771.45	UP 2.74
Composite	1,418.54	DOWN 9.70

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 41; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 109; NO. OF TRADES: 2,498

DISCLOSURES

CEBU Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 12, 10 a.m., at the Sinulog Ballroom of City Sports Club Cebu. Only stockholders as of March 1 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

CEBU Property Ventures & Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 12, 3 p.m., at the Sinulog Ballroom of City Sports Club Cebu. Only stockholders as of March 1 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

EASYCALL Communications Philippines Inc. shall close down the provincial sites of its paging business by the end of March 2002. The company shall operate its paging business only in Metro Manila and Cebu.

* * *

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. has announced the discovery of significant gold deposits in its Lepanto holdings in Benguet Province.

* * *

UNIVERSAL Rightfield Property Holdings Inc. has disclosed the resignation of A. Bayani Tan and Ma. Louisa Gonzales as corporate secretary and assistant corporate secretary, respectively, and its subsidiary, **Universal Leisure Corp.**

* * *

OMICO Corp. has sold its 8,100-square-meter property in Boracay Island for P95 million.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Vistan seen leaving post at Equitable

By Elena R. Torrijos

AMID conflicts with majority shareholders, Equitable PCI Bank president Deogracias Vistan is expected to tender his resignation in time for the bank's regular board meeting on Friday.

If accepted, the resignation would effectively be the second in less than a year or since former bank president Wilfrido Vergara stepped down in April 2001.

Equitable PCI chair Antonio Go had been at odds with Vistan on how to manage the bank, INQUIRER sources said.

For the past few months there have been rumors that Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., which has no permanent chief executive following the effective resignation of vice chair Alfonso Yuchengco III in November last year, may get Vistan for a top post.

Asked Tuesday evening if he would resign, Vistan, who has a four-year contract with the bank, did not confirm or deny it. The veteran banker said he was happy that he helped in the recovery of the bank, which suffered massive withdrawals in late 2000 after being embroiled in the impeachment case against the President Estrada.

Equitable PCI Bank, the country's fourth largest bank, had to turn to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for emergency assistance amounting to P30 billion in January last year in order to overcome the financial difficulties, but through an aggressive deposit recovery program was able to gradually pay down the loan until it was fully settled last December.

Vistan's assumption of the presidency of Equitable PCI Bank had itself been shrouded with controversy. After Vergara resigned last year, then Equitable executive vice president Edilberto Javier took over as acting president and was reportedly assured of support by the Go family, which owns about 30 percent of the bank.

However, the Go family was prodded to approve Vistan's appointment reportedly under pressure from BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura who wanted Vistan, a former Citibank colleague, to be the next bank president.

At that time, Vistan's appointment counted on the support of then Social Security System president Vitaliano Nañagas, also an ex-Citibanker forced to resign from his post after SSS executives and rank and file staged massive protests against Nañagas' "abrasive" management style.

SSS and another state-controlled pension fund, the Government Service Insurance System, own more than 35 percent of Equitable PCI Bank.

Car firm seeks more time to sell imported units

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

DAIMLER-CHRYSLER Corp., through its local partner Norkis Automotive Resources Corp., has asked the Board of Investments for a one-year extension to sell its quota of 1,000 sport utility vehicles and pick-ups.

Norkis chief operating officer Eric D. Borja said it was unable to meet its commitment to sell 1,000 Chrysler units last year because sales were dampened by the political turmoil and the economic crisis.

Borja said the sudden change in administration in January last year and the destabilization efforts in the succeeding months prompted buyers to defer any purchases. He said the economic slowdown has likewise forced buyers to save and focus their spending on basic items.

Borja reported that sales were so bad that Norkis was forced to re-export some of its units at a significant loss to the company. Borja said his group was still determining which specific model to sell in the country.

He hinted that the group was looking to bring in mini-vans and compact sport utility vehicle, the Jeep Liberty, to compete with the Honda CR-V and Toyota Rav 4. "We want to sell more affordable vehicles to hit our sales commitment of 1,000 units."

In 2000, Malacañang endorsed Daimler-Chrysler's application to bring in 1,000 SKD units in 2001 with an option to ship in another 2,500 units in 2002 and 3,500 units in 2003. But its license to bring in the 1,000 units is set to expire this month.

A delay would allow Daimler-Chrysler and Norkis to move back the schedule in exercising their option to bring in 6,000 SKDs as well as their obligation to go to full automotive assembly using completely knocked down (CKD) units within 18 months.

Megaworld seen developing Boni lot

PROPERTY firm Megaworld Corp. said yesterday that it would develop a 5-hectare property bought from Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., a unit of Metro Pacific Corp.

Megaworld has tied up with consortium Bonifacio West Development Corp., led by company president Carlos Rufino, which announced on Monday that it had bought the block for P2.5 billion.

The property is in Bonifacio Global City, a major 150 ha mixed-use site near the Makati business district, being developed by Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

"A consortium led by Mr. Carlos Rufino and Megaworld Corp. have agreed in principle that Megaworld will develop the 5-ha property at the Fort Bonifacio Global City which the consortium recently acquired from the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp," Megaworld told the Philippine Stock Exchange in a disclosure.

It added, however, that it was still finalizing terms with the Rufino-led consortium over the joint venture pact.

Debt-laden Metro Pacific has been trying to sell its 69.6-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp., which in turns owns 55 percent of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., to raise cash, but has not yet done so. *Reuters*

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'High-tech' UST Hospital celebrates 56th foundation day

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Hospital, one of the leading tertiary medical facilities in the country, celebrates its 56th foundation day on March 7. The week-long anniversary celebration opens with the food festival, which will be held at the UST Hospital Parking and Garden Area starting March 4 to 9.

The Foundation Day celebration will formally open with the concelebrated Eucharistic Mass at the Santissimo Rosario Service Church on March 7. This will be followed by the service and recognition awards ceremonies for deserving employees, medical and non-medical staff of the hospital. An Ati-atihan troop is invited to perform and give a real festive atmosphere at the USTH Quadrangle where family fun games, sports events, party and entertainment shows will also be held.

Through the years, UST hospital, a tertiary hospital and an academic training center for young medical professionals, has been living out its mission to provide quality health care to its patients. The hospital management recognizes the importance of keeping at pace with the latest technology, of continuing medical education of its medical staff and of advancing in research to further uplift its standard in the medical field.

Today, the University Hospital offers an extensive array of medical services for its patients. Recently, it inaugurated the Urodynamics Unit following the installation of the most advanced urodynamics equipment. It has also recently acquired the Impedance Cardiography (ICG) Technology, a new approach in assessing the heart's mechanical function for use at its Intensive Care Unit and Coronary Care Unit. The Cardiac Catheterization Unit is also one of the latest additions to the hospital facilities. It has a state-of-the-art imaging system and performs all types of heart procedures. The Center for Kidney Diseases is equipped with the most modern dialysis machines capable of performing 350-400 procedures a week. UST Hospital has also opened its Nutrition Center, the first of its kind in the country, to ensure a standard practice of quality nutrition and provide an organized nutrition care program for its patients. The installation of the most modern Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) facility is also underway.

The Hospital boasts of the most modern equipment housed in its various centers such as the Eye Center, the Hearing and Dizziness Center, the St. Thomas Diabetes Center, the Heart Station, the Hemophilia Center, the Center for Respiratory Medicine, Joint and Bone Center, and the Center for Urologic Care.

Special packages are available to ensure rates remain affordable for the patients of both the private and the clinical divisions.

With the turnover of the hospital management to a management team, lawyer Pilar P. Almira, chief operating officer, affirmed the team's commitment to promote the Thomasian mission of pursuing quality health care for all its patients. She added that UST Hospital shall continue to be a service-oriented institution upholding the ideals of the Dominican community—service the sick, especially the poor and marginalized.

GREPALIFE, RCBC SIGN MOA

Grepalife recently signed a memorandum of agreement with affiliate Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) for a payment facility to better serve Grepalife policyholders who are also RCBC depositors. The arrangement allows policyholders the convenience of having their premium payments automatically debited from their RCBC bank accounts. Seated, from left, are Grepalife SVP Rey Soto, Grepalife president and CEO Alfredo Antonio, RCBC EVP Jose Santos, and Grepalife vice president Danny Visto. Witnessing are (standing, from right) RCBC business development section head Michael San Pablo, Grepalife marketing operations manager Armand Mayuga, Grepalife agency manager Kit Calapardo and RCBC product development officer Erik Ramirez.

FAKES INVESTIGATED

Amspec marketing manager Antonette Ravana-Severino turns over documents on fake Mongol pencils to DILG Secretary Joey Lina, who promised to provide assistance to Amspec on the immediate resolution of the case, during the Pana general assembly at the Manila Hotel. During recent buy-bust operations, Chinese nationals were arrested for selling fake Mongol pencils. Intellectual property violations have been filed.

SPC-QC REUNITES AT ALFREDO'S

St. Paul College of Quezon City, high school batch of 1981, is scheduled to have a reunion party on March 9, Saturday, at 6 p.m. It will be held at Alfredo's Steak House along Tomas Morato Avenue in Quezon City. Shown are the members of the reunion organizing committee (standing, from left) Jojo Millonado-Santos, Maricar Sundiang-Amio, Pia Arroyo-Magalona; Rona Navarro-Quejada, Anna Ylagan, (seated, from left) Melon Salazar, Sheila Del Prado-Flores, Roshele Moreno, and Shari Carlos-Consulta. For more details, call Sheila Del Prado-Flores at 931-0943 and 931-3031 or Maricar Sundiang-Amio at 641-2953.

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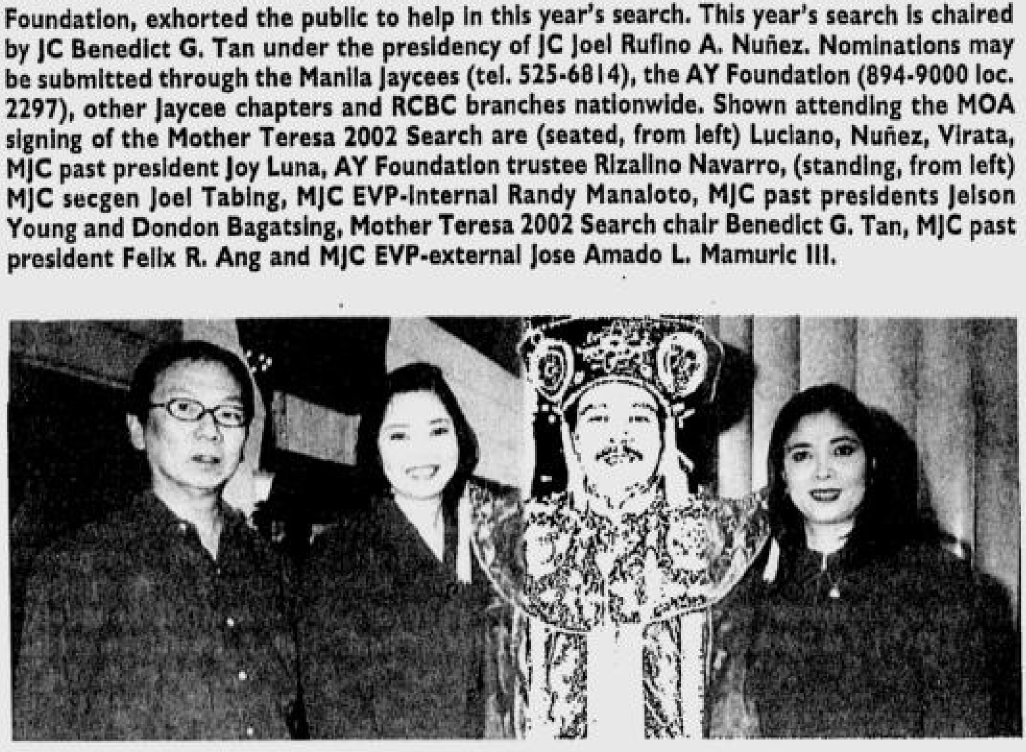
2002 MOTHER TERESA AWARDS LAUNCHED

In simple ceremonies held at the original launching venue of the Mother Teresa Awards in 1983, the Manila Jaycees and the AY Foundation launched this year's search. Keynote speaker was 2001 awardee Justice Leonor Ines Luciano, who humbly recalled the announcement of her award. Former Prime Minister Cesar E.A. Virata, trustee of the AY Foundation, exhorted the public to help in this year's search. This year's search is chaired by JC Benedict G. Tan under the presidency of JC Joel Rufino A. Nuñez. Nominations may be submitted through the Manila Jaycees (tel. 525-6814), the AY Foundation (894-9000 loc. 2297), other Jaycee chapters and RCBC branches nationwide. Shown attending the MOA signing of the Mother Teresa 2002 Search are (seated, from left) Luciano, Nuñez, Virata, MJC past president Joy Luna, AY Foundation trustee Rizalino Navarro, (standing, from left) MJC secgen Joel Tabing, MJC EVP-internal Randy Manaloto, MJC past presidents Jelson Young and Dondon Bagatsing, Mother Teresa 2002 Search chair Benedict G. Tan, MJC past president Felix R. Ang and MJC EVP-external Jose Amado L. Mamuric III.



WATER HORSE GALLOPS IN AT THHM

On Feb. 12, The Heritage Hotel Manila welcomed the year of the water horse with a lion dance at the lobby and the tossing of the Yu Sheng salad at the Heritage Ballroom. The hotel adorned the ballroom corridors and walls with traditional Chinese red lanterns and fortune sticks. A whole wall made into a lantern stood at the entrance to welcome guests. Shown from left is fashion director Eliseo 'Boy' Saulog, THHM marketing communications manager Joy Manankil-Gonzales, Pana executive director Dr. Nonie Azarcon, and THHM F&B promotions manager Geena Zablan. The Heritage Hotel Manila wishes everyone Kung Hei Fat Choy on this year of the water horse.

Rapid tests and automated methods in food microbiology

THE FOOD Development Center of the National Food Authority calls on interested parties to participate in its seminar workshop on Rapid Tests and Automated Methods in Food Microbiology IV to be held from March 12 to 16 at the FDC Compound, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Growing global concerns on maintaining a high level of safety in our foods and the ever-increasing demand by food producers to move their products much quicker to local and international markets have led to the proliferation of rapid test kits and automated systems in microbiological monitoring. Nowadays, microbiologists can apply an arsenal of user-friendly rapid tests to detect and identify foodborne pathogens and target organisms for sanitation monitoring depending on the regulatory and client requirements.

This workshop is designed to bring together institutional regulatory and industry technologists, scientists and commercial test representatives in a highly interactive and conducive atmosphere for mutual learning through a five-day intensive course of lectures, laboratory demonstrations and individual or group hands-on exercises. A major portion of the time will be spent on laboratory hands-on exercises. By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to evaluate which of the tests would adequately satisfy their current and future needs. Moreover, participants are updated on the latest technologies in this area including those used in food security and bioterrorism. This is the premier rapid test course in microbiology offered in the Philippines.

The seminar fee is set at P6,900 per participant inclusive of lunches, snacks, manual, and a shuttle bus service from Makati to the workshop venue and back. Checks should be made payable to the Food Development Center, National Food Authority.

Participants may arrange for a live-in arrangement and stay at the FDC dormitory with air-conditioned rooms that can accommodate two persons per room. The FDC charges P790 per room per day for double occupancy and P600 per room per day for single occupancy.

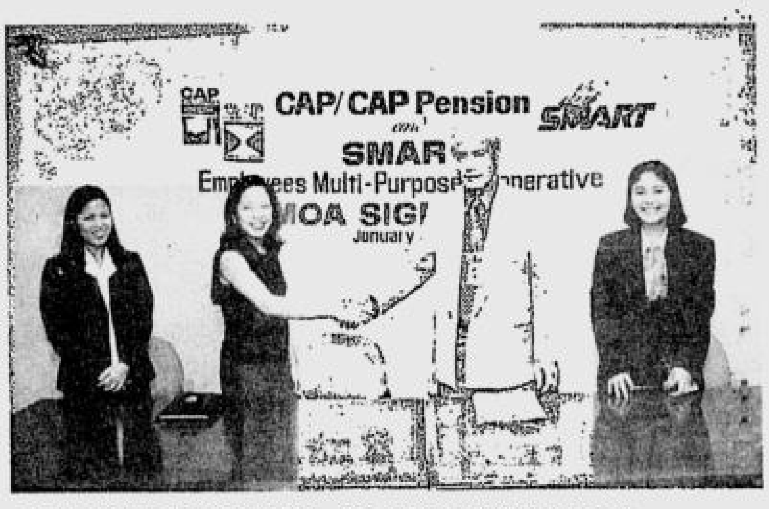
For inquiries, call Luvy Maala of the Food Development Center, National Food Authority, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila at 838-4014 to 16, 838-4478, 838-4561 and 838-4601; fax numbers 838-4692 and 838-4016, or e-mail infofdc@pacific.net.ph.

'Intrapreneurs' push up bottom line

PUSHING UP the bottom line is not only the job of the owner or the management team, but employees have a crucial role to play. "Intrapreneurs" are employees who think and act like entrepreneurs within the company. They have a sense of ownership.

As we are going through economic survival and growth, "intrepreneurship is an economic strategy which utilizes a sound human resource strategy. Emma Valeros Cruz, economist and HR professional and Rex Resurreccion, international trainer, designed and implemented an intrapreneurship training program which has resulted to tangible benefits. With their mission of linking human resources to the bottom line, this student and professor tandem from the University of the Philippines hope to contribute to the employees' development to increase the company's market share and spur growth in the economy.

Resource Synthesis International (RSI) is offering an intrapreneurship training program from March 14-15 at the Mulawin Room of Dusit Hotel Nikko. Interested parties can call RSI at 637-2645; 637-2603 and 0917-8412878 or e-mail rsiph@skyinet.net.



CAP, CAP PENSION, SMART SIGN MOA

College Assurance Plan (CAP), the pre-need industry's pioneer and undisputed leader, along with sister company Comprehensive Annuity Plans and Pension Corp. (CAP Pension), recently tied up with giant telecommunications firm Smart Communications Inc. by signing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the latter's Employees' Multi-Purpose Cooperative. Shown is CAP first executive vice president Jose Montoya (second from right) shaking hands with Smart HRD head Carla Lanza after the MOA signing. Looking on are Smart HRD officer Joan Carlos (left) and CAP Pension regular area manager Maritess B. Las Piñas.

BITS Clips

Annual DLSAA homecoming

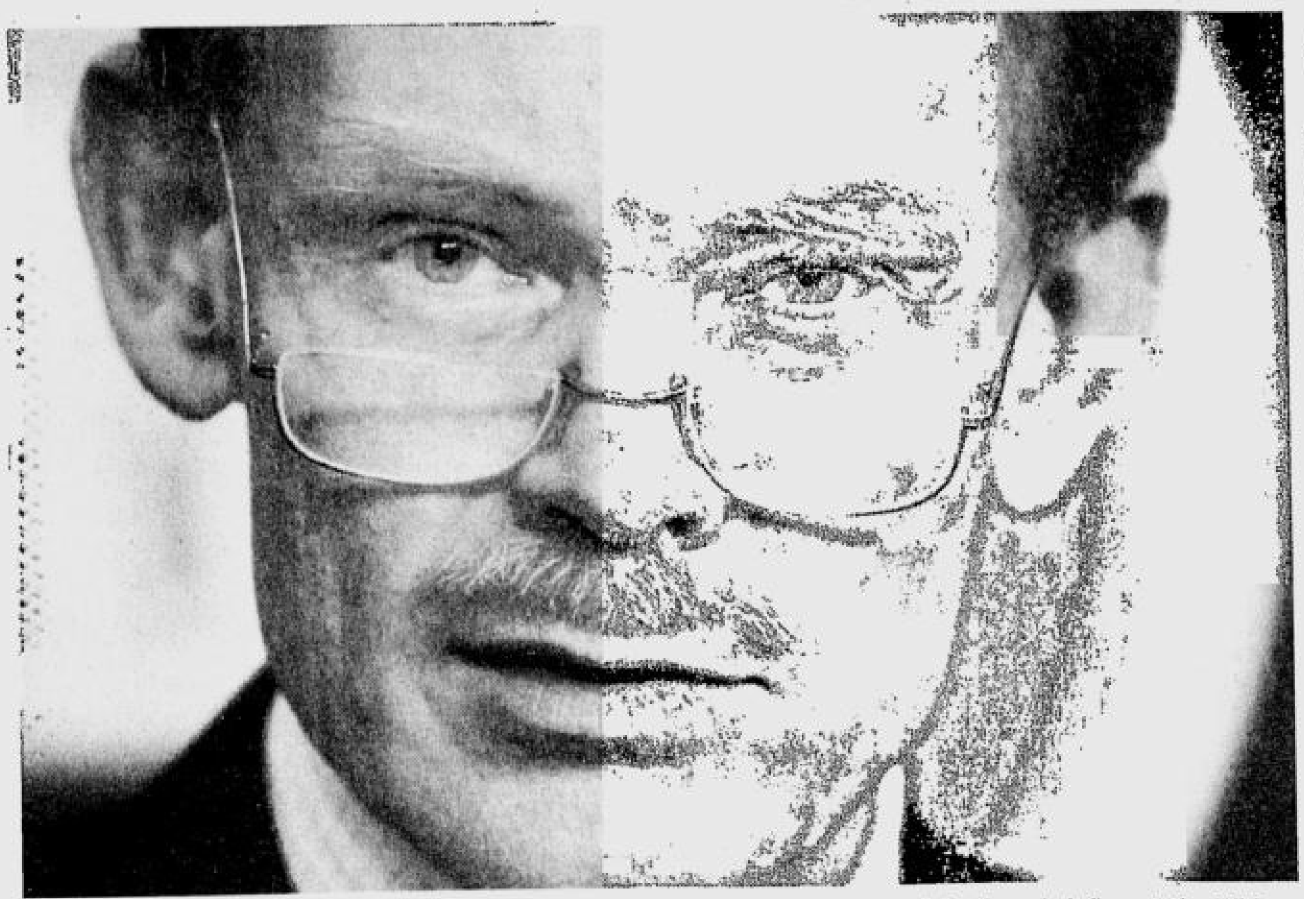
THE ANNUAL De La Salle Alumni Association (DLSAA) homecoming is set for March 9, Saturday, at the Taft Campus. The theme for this annual DLSAA event is "La Sallians Achieve, the Animo Lives!" The College Silver Jubilarians Class of '77 are this year's homecoming host. The alumni registration starts at 4 p.m., followed by a Eucharistic Celebration at 5 p.m., then cocktails, dinner and a program to be held at the Marian Quadrangle. Prior to registration, there will be a tour of the new campus and sports complex between 2 and 4 p.m. Sponsors of the homecoming night is Globe Telecom in cooperation with Kodak. The funds raised from the homecoming activities will support the University's Endowed Scholarship Program so that it would become available to a wider base of underprivileged but deserving students, and the establishment of an Alumni Hall of Fame Room in the new sports complex. For ticket info and other details, call the alumni office secretariat at 523-6158, or e-mail dlsaa@mail.dlsu.edu.ph, or call Jane Calderon-Buenaventura at 0917-8169611, Nano Quintos at 0917-8142375, Bobby Cabral at 0919-8196792, and Ida Manalo-Joseph at 0917-8420876.

Records management seminars

COMPANIES and organizations can avail themselves of the benefits of having trained record-keepers through a basic records management seminar to be held on March 8. An advanced program on records management will also run from March 14 to 15. InfoRRMMS Consulting has organized the seminars to include lectures, group discussions, open forum, and several group and individual workshops to enhance learning and retention. resource person for the seminars is Lourdes Coz-Manguerra who has conducted close to a hundred records management seminars for both government and private organizations. InfoRRMMS Consulting handles research and monitoring services, records management systems, training and marketing and management consulting. For more information, call InfoRRMMS at 633-2086 or 89, or e-mail informms@info.com.ph.

Dochterman named RIPR

PRIP Clifford L. Dochterman has been named as RI president Rick King's representative (RIPR) to Discon 2002 scheduled from March 7 to 9 at the Fiesta Pavilion of Manila Hotel. Dochterman counts among his accomplishments the resource material "The ABCs of Rotary". He will be accompanied in his Manila trip by spouse Mary Elena. He is expected to deliver three major speeches at the conference. Governor Rudy Estrellado has called on the clubs to register in full force for Discon 2002, with special emphasis on the new Rotarians inducted during the year. Dubbed "The Gathering of Eagles," Discon 2002 is hosted by the Rotary Club of Pasay 3810 under the leadership of president Tony Tan. Past president Dr. Boy Villareal, chair of the organizing committee, bared plans for the events that will feature prominent personalities from private and government sectors. For more inquiries, call 842-3299 or 809-4506.



US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick announces new trade tariffs on steel during a briefing at the White House. Zoellick announced the United States would impose tariffs of 8 percent to 30 percent on several types of imported steel under a three-year plan in an attempt to help the US steel industry. REUTERS

US unleashes foreign fury with tariffs on steel imports

WASHINGTON—Foreign steel manufacturers and exporting nations reacted angrily Tuesday to a US decision to impose 30-percent tariffs on the bulk of its steel imports.

The European Union announced it would take its complaint to the World Trade Organization, while Japanese and Russian steel makers described the US action as wrong-headed and unproductive.

Asked in a news conference whether he expected a backlash, President George W. Bush replied: "This is a remedy allowed under the WTO. It also is a part of our law, and I intend to enforce our laws."

Imports were severely affecting the US steel-producing industry, Bush said.

Bush's decision was taken under Section 201 of the 1974 trade law, which allowed the president to impose punitive tariffs on imports found to have caused injury to the domestic industry.

The measures included 30-percent tariffs on flat steel, hot-rolled bar and cold-finished bar and tin mill products.

All of the tariffs, which range from 8 percent to 30 percent, will decline slightly over a three-year period.

"The EU will, of course, launch an immediate complaint in Geneva against this clear violation of WTO rules, and we will take whatever measures are necessary to safeguard our own market," European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said in a statement released in Brussels. *AFP*

Cathay Pacific 2001 profits drop 87%

HONG KONG—Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. said Wednesday that its net profit plunged 87 percent last year due to the global slowdown and fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The fall in net profit to HK$657 million ($84 million) from HK$5 billion came after sales declined 11.8 percent to HK$30.43 billion, Cathay Pacific said in a statement.

A profit of nearly HK$1.32 billion in the first half of the year swung into a loss of HK$662 million in the second half as a result of the deepening global economic slowdown and the terrorist attacks involving hijacked airliners.

The airline carried 11.3 million passengers in 2001, 5 percent lower than the previous year. Demand for business and first class travel was particularly weak, it said.

The fall in demand prompted intense competition and widespread discounting in many of the markets Cathay Pacific serves. *AFP*

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Glimmers of good news: false dawn or rising sun?

TOKYO—Japan's gloomy economy brightened a bit Wednesday, with a nationwide survey suggesting more businesses were upbeat about the future. The sentiment underlined a recent raft of economic figures indicating Japan's steady downturn might be bottoming out.

The country is still slugging through its third recession in a decade, and even the government says the economy won't pick up until late in the year.

But the fresh uptick in business sentiment, combined with a rebound in Tokyo stocks and forecasts for industrial revival indicate the world's second largest economy may finally be pulling out of financial free fall.

"It's the cyclical recovery of the industrial economy. It's exciting," said Jesper Koll, chief economist for Merrill Lynch in Tokyo. He predicted Japan's economy would grow by up to 1.5 percent by the end of year.

Rekindling the Japanese economy was the campaign pledge of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. Yet the country's doldrums have also become an international concern, with the United States urging Japan to implement reforms before its flailing economy becomes a drag on the global economy.

Optimism for a possible rebound was spurred Wednesday, when the Finance Ministry reported that business outlook at large Japanese companies brightened a bit for the January-March quarter.

The overall business sentiment was still negative, but the results indicated more businesses were less pessimistic about the future than just a quarter earlier.

Underpinning hopes are a 22-percent increase in the Nikkei stock index since early February and Koizumi's long-awaited economic recovery plan unveiled last week.

Another positive sign was a plunge in business inventories to their lowest levels since 1990. Empty warehouses mean factories must ramp up production to match any increase in foreign demand. That's increasingly likely as the United States stages a quicker-than-expected economic recovery, firing demand for Japanese products.

Despite glimmers of good news, economists warn that the economy is coasting on downward momentum and that a trickle of positive data doesn't prove a trend. *AP*

Analysts debate call, role of US recession arbiter

WASHINGTON—The National Bureau of Economic Research said it was. US officials said it probably wasn't. And private sector economists were divided over whether the US slump was a recession at all.

The NBER, which has the daunting task of being the official judge of US recessions, is standing by its November call that one began last March. But controversy surrounds the decision that many say is wrong, premature and possibly harmful. Amid the debate, some are questioning the need for such an arbiter.

"I don't think we need them," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. "Probably the NBER calling a recession has done some damage to the economy."

Sohn, who himself was quick to say a recession was probable after the Sept. 11 attacks, charges that stock markets, consumer confidence and business capital spending would all have fared better in the last few months if the NBER had not called a recession.

The NBER, a research group based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was set up in 1920 by economists interested in the concept of business cycles. They developed a chronology of cycles dating back to 1854 and continued to update it. In 1961, the Commerce Department asked if it could use the NBER data in one of its monthly publications, which no longer existed.

So began the NBER's role as official business cycle arbiter. Traditionally, the group calls peaks and troughs months after they occur, by which time the information can be treated as more or less irrelevant.

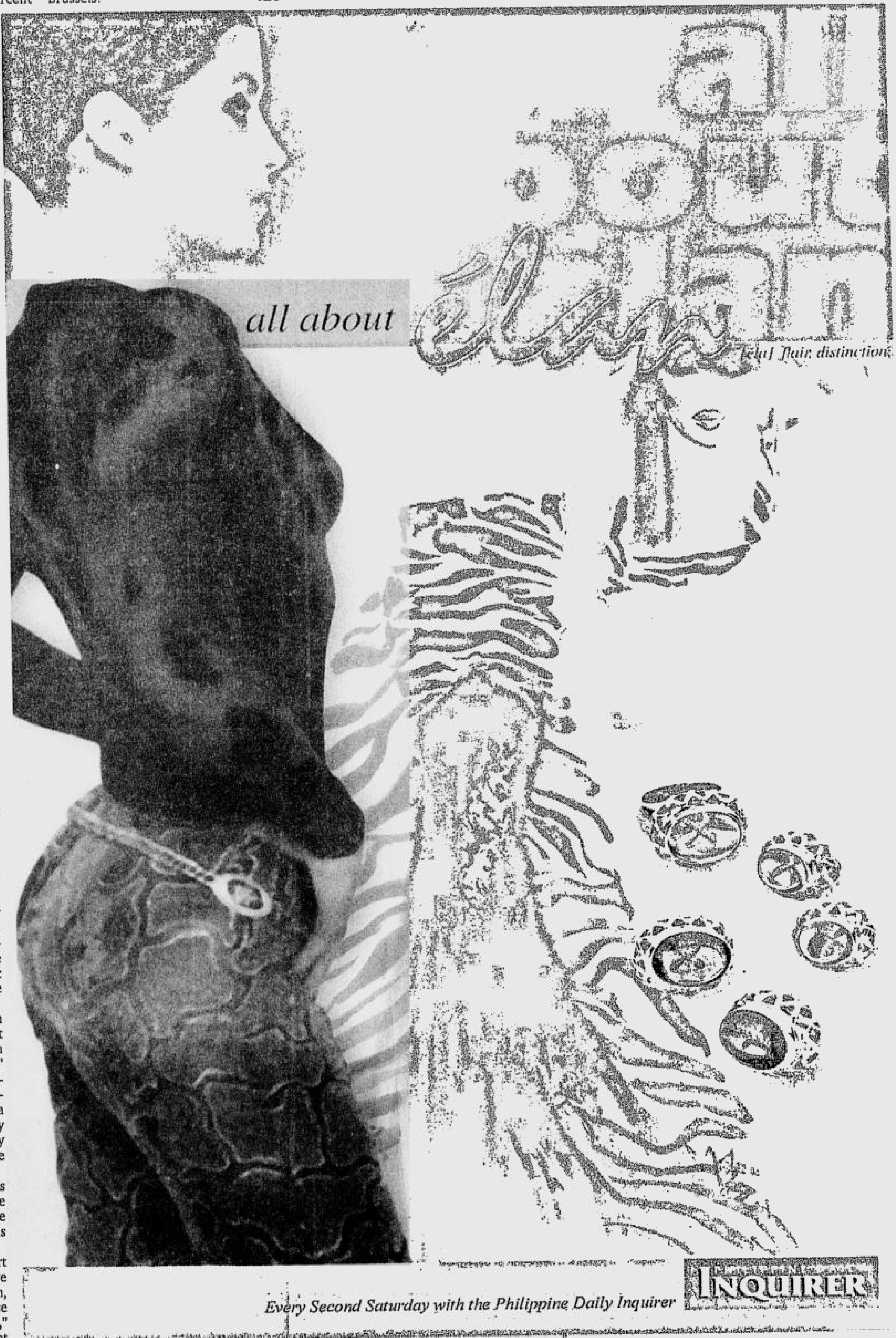
In the 1991 recession, the declaration did not emerge until late in 1992, more than a year after the economy had started to climb out of the slump.

But this time, with the announcement coming just two months after the Sept. 11 attacks with the economic outlook more uncertain than ever, the news attracted plenty of attention.

"We don't have to pay attention to it. But it's like saying we won't pay attention to the groundhog in Punxsutawney, everybody does," said one economist. He was referring to a US tradition where thousands flock to a small Pennsylvania town in February to watch a furry groundhog called Punxsutawney Phil, believing he can forecast the end of winter.

Those who support the NBER's role in calling recessions argue the arbiter is necessary to ensure the debate is insulated from politics as much as possible.

"The reason one wants some sort of arbiter is because whether you're an economic historian or a politician, you don't want to be able to choose your own date to suit your purposes," said another economist who did not want to be identified. *Reuters*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Encarnacion Bechaves vda. de Cabreza

September 28, 1919 – March 4, 2002

peacefully joined her Creator
and her dearly departed husband, CEFERINO, at the age of 82.

Her body now lies in state at Faith Chapel in Don Bosco Parish, Pasay Road, Makati City.
She will be brought to her final resting place in Manila Memorial Park, Paranaque
on Saturday, March 9, after the 8:00 a.m. mass.

We, her CHILDREN,

JORGE,
CEFERINO Jr. & Ramona Verzosa; LINDA & Bing Bunye; RUBEN;
MENCHU & Chito Arceo; VIKKI & Fred Paraiso; MALU & Herbert Hatzl;

together with her GRANDCHILDREN,

Joey, Margot, Corky & Paolo; Michael, Lanie & Iggy;
Techie, Gidget & Bobby; Ian, Karen & Kathy; Kevin, Luigi & Lisa; Yvonne;
great grandchildren, relatives and friends

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

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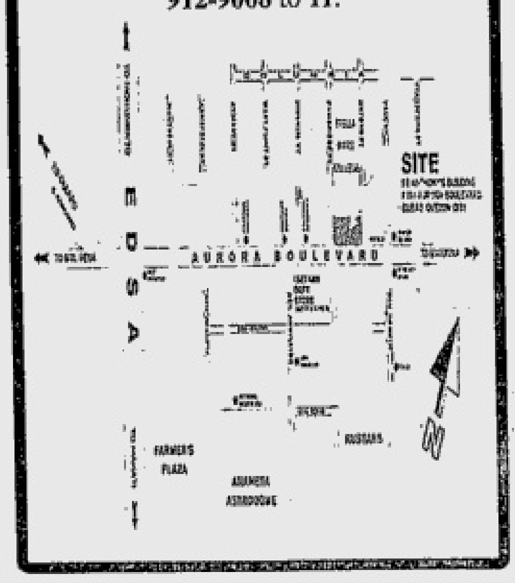

**I am the way,
the truth
and the life.
No one comes
to the Father
except
through Me.**

John 14:6

In Loving Memory
on the
Fourth Death Anniversary
of
FILOMENA L. CONTRERAS

November 22, 1906 - March 7, 1998

Holy Masses will be offered today, March 7, 2002
at the following churches:

Family Mausoleum, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque	4:00 PM
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City	7:30 AM
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Magallanes Village, Makati City	7:00 AM
Our Lady of the Abandoned, Sta. Ana, Manila	6:30 AM
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan	7:15 AM, 6:15 AM
Mary, The Queen, Madison Street, San Juan	7:00 AM
St. Joseph Parish, Project 3, Quezon City	7:00 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish, Lantana Street, Cubao, Quezon City	7:00 AM
Christ the King Seminary, Eulogio Rodriguez, Quezon City	7:00 AM
San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City, Batangas	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Lipa City, Batangas	6:00 AM
Don Bosco Parish Church, Pasay Road, Makati City	7:00 AM

We, her family, request relatives, friends and pious readers
to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

PILAR DIAZ MARASIGAN

*Who joined our Lord and Creator
on February 23, 2002.*

Sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, gave donations, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and days of prayer and who, in countless and immeasurable ways, condoled with and comforted us in our moment of grief.

**MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS
ALL OF YOU.**

Beloved Son, Brother and Friend

JUAN CRISOSTOMO "Johnny" G. PADUA

On his Fourth Death Anniversary
January 27, 1956 to March 7, 1998
passed away at Havelock, N.C., U.S.A.

***"While some view Death as Ending All,
The Word of God does not Agree,
Eternal Pain awaits the Fool;
Unending Joy the Wise will See.
For those who are Prepared to Die
are Prepared to Live."***

His mortal remains lie at Pio del Pilar Shrine at
Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park in Quezon City.

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"The little white butterfly spread its wings till he felt them all around him... it was a white hospital sheet. And there was Aunt Luisa by his bed, muttering "Thank the Lord, thank the Lord you have pulled through." His chest still felt heavy but he could breathe and the air that filled his lungs was sweet. He remembered trudging home soaking wet the day he caught that butterfly --- the pure white butterfly Pursuit."

from WHITE BUTTERFLY by Glenn A. Nuyda

ATTY. GLENN NUYDA Y AVECILLA

July 18, 1925 - March 6, 2002

His wife **Doris**; children **Jojo** and **Mariciel**, **Rocky** and **Eve**, **Patty** and **Tiny Defensor**, **Kenny** and **Leah**, **Miren** and **Cats Guerrero**, and **Jennie**; all his grandchildren, brothers and sisters request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at Holy Trinity Funeral Homes in Sucat, Parañaque City.

Schedule of final rites and cremation will be announced later.

*"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*

DOMINADOR M. LEONIDA SR.

FORMER MAYOR OF BOAC, MARINDUQUE

Peacefully joined our Lord and his Beloved wife ***Esperanza*** *(†)*
on March 5, 2002 at the age of 83.

His bereaved children **Dominador Jr.** (†) & **Eugenia P. Vda. de Leonida, Celeste & Mario Malilay, Ma. Fe & Engr. Florencio, Bailon, Dr. Efren & Lourdes B. Leonida** and **Judge Leonardo & Myrna S. Leonida**, grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 2, St. Alphonsus de Liguori Parish Center, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 9, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the Requiem Mass at 9:00 a.m.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

INTERMENT NOTICE

SK Col. Magtangol N. Ongchangco

Council 8205, PMA Class '43
(March 26, 1917 - February 14, 2002)

His body lies in state at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Chapel, Holy Family Parish Church, K-1 cor. K-7th Streets, Kamias, Q.C.

Funeral Mass is at 6:30 a.m., March 9, 2002. Cremation follows at 9:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park Crematorium, Marikina.

Pious readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

GABRIEL M. CRISTOBAL III

Former Philippine Scout and USAFFE Veteran

*Passed away on November 13, 2001
at the age of 79 in California, U.S.A.*

His sisters, children, nephews, nieces and grandchildren request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains will be buried at Manila South Cemetery following a Mass at 10:00 AM at St. Anthony Church, San Andres corner Singalong.

Message of Thanks
from the family of the late

Juan "Johnny" Dancel Misa

Member, United Architects of the Philippines
May 15, 1935 - January 31, 2002

To all who shared their grief on his passing, thank you!

The 40th day will be marked with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 10, 2002 at the home of his maternal aunt Consuelo Dancel Sison at #10 Alpha Road, Alpha Village, Capitol Hills, Quezon City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late DALMACIO PERCINIA was extrajudicially settled before Doc# 344 Page# 68 Book# XXIX Notary Public Reynaldo Bernardo of Rizal PDI 3/7,14,21,2002

Notice is given that the estate of late RAFAEL L. MENDOZA has extrajudicially settled by and among his heirs as per Doc. 321 Page 65 Book XXII Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Gaudencio S. Mercado of Quezon City
PDI-March 7, 14 & 21, 2002

Notice is given the estate of the late ALEJANDRO G. LINGAD has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 170; Page No. 34; Book No. CXIV; Series 1991 before Notary Public Pedro L. Liangco of Bacolor Pampanga.
(PDI-March 7, 14 & 21, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NATALIA C. WYSON has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs per Doc #408; Page #83; Book #34; Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Norman P. Bagriel PTR 548465
(PDI - 2/28, 3/7 & 14, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
National Police Commission
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
PNPCS Canvass and Awards Committee
Camp Crame, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE COMPUTER SERVICE BIDS AND AWARDS, COMMITTEE invites all interested PNP Accredited Suppliers/Manufacturers to participate in the bidding of the following:

1. Supply and Installation of AVLS with Radio Base System (Phase II)
2. One (1) Lot FED Computerization Project - Hardware & Software (Phase III)
3. One (1) Lot TMG Computerization Project - Hardware & Software (Phase III)
4. One (1) Lot CFC Reconciliation Computerization Project

The detailed specification of these products will be released during the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **Wednesday, March 13, 2002** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the Conference Room of the PNP Computer Service in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

For more details, please call up PCI Lampa at Tel. # 725-5108.

(Sgd.) **PSSUPT CLAUDIO C. CABREROS**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Mar. 7, 8 & 9, 2002)

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INVITATION to PREQUALIFY for the OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR ADB'S FACILITIES AND ENGINEERING SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification in the rebidding for the Operations and Maintenance Services for ADB's Facilities and Engineering Systems and Equipment located at ADB Building, No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines. The services include all works necessary to maintain the daily operation of the ADB's mechanical and electrical engineering, drainage and sewerage and fire protection systems (hereinafter referred to as the Facilities) installed and operating at the ADB's premises and the official residence of the ADB President.
2. The services also include the maintenance of workshops equipment. It is required to implement alteration and improvement works including construction of partitioning and related building services realignment which require basic design, drafting and construction personnel. The services should include provision for, on an as need basis, the personnel identified under the Special Projects Personnel on request.
3. Applications for prequalification will only be entertained from companies meeting the following criteria:
   - i. The bidder must have a legal existence for no less than five (5) years as a validly registered company;
   - ii. The bidder must have extensive experience in the field of operations and maintenance services for no less than five (5) and have done similar projects for the last five (5) years in the Philippines;
   - iii. The bidder must have a generated annual revenue derived from operations and maintenance services of at least Philippine Pesos 10,000,000 for the last five (5) years;
   - iv. The bidder must have available credit;
   - v. The bidder must have the technical capability and the availability of Computerized Management Maintenance Software (CMMS), as well as maintenance facilities shops complete with tools and equipment, materials and supplies.
4. The contract shall be for two years and thereafter ADB has the option to renew the contract every year for a maximum of five years.
5. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents from the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services at room 4223 North, No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines, from **11 to 19 March 2002 (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)** The documents are available for a non-refundable fee of Pesos Three Hundred (P300.00).
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of the ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant. The ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification and to reply only to the companies, which are considered by the ADB to be prequalified.

(Sgd.) **NORMIN S. PAKPAHAN**
Chairman
Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI--Mar. 7 & 8, 2002)

MOTORING

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Entry-level Jaguar X-type hops into RP

By Tessa R. Salazar

CHEAPEST Jaguar in town! X-type , 2-liter V6

OWNING a Jaguar starts with a two-liter V6 model. That's what Jaguar Philippines says as it promotes the latest addition to its luxurious garage—a smaller, more affordable engine—the 2-liter V6 X-type.

Jaguar enthusiasts as well as first-time owners-to-be who have been waiting for the 2-liter models of Jaguar's fast-selling X-type can now rejoice at the thought that this model will be on sale on an advance order basis by March. The first batch of units will arrive in Manila in May.

Expected increase

The X-type 2-liter V6 is expected to increase significantly Jaguar's share of the compact premium sports saloon segment. It comprises three models: the entry level 2-liter V6; the 2-liter Sport and the lavish 2-liter SE. These models feature 24-valve, four-cam, two-liter Jaguar AJ-V6 engine. The new 2.1-liter V6 with a capacity of 2,099 liters, produces 157 bhp.

The two-liter engine, said chief engineer Mike Cross of Vehicle Integrity, benefits from the steering system originally engineered for the 2.5- and 3-liter all-wheel drive models. The engineers, he said, optimized the steering for the front-wheel-drive chassis to ensure there would be no corruption from either the engine or the suspension.

Jaguar Cars Inc. said the X-type targets the generation of young upscale and mobile individuals. The two-liter V6 is said to incorporate safety features, including frontal, side and side curtain airbags, drivers seat track position and front passengers weight sensors. It also boasts of an automatic drive away locking.

The manufacturer estimates that the 2-liter V6 has an acceleration ranging from 0 to 100 km/hr at 9.4 seconds for the five-speed manual and 10.8 seconds for the 5-speed automatic. Its top speed is 210 km/h for the 5-speed manual and 205 km/h for the 5-speed automatic.

50-unit mark

Jaguar Cars Inc. president Wellington Soong said the number of X-types in the country reached the 50-unit mark since its launch in September 2001 when the X-type 2.5 liter, priced at P2.75 million, was launched. Soong said the X-type is "very spirited and very responsive to what the market is looking for" and that its unique features such as the Jaguar traction four full-time all-wheel drive make it a contender in the luxury compact sedan segment.

The winner, meanwhile, of the third annual Jaguar Golf Invitation at the Country Club in Canlubang, Laguna from March 11 to 15 wouldn't have to yearn for an X-type 2-liter V6 any longer because Jaguar Philippines will give away a brand new Jaguar X-type as the prize.

ISUZU XUV

XUV/SUV

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

JUST when you thought Isuzu had come up with the last word in AUVs with its Crosswind Hi-Lander XTO, here comes the Isuzu XUV to replace the Hi-Lander XTRM. More than any other Asian utility vehicle, this pumped-up baby resembles an SUV.

With the XUV, Isuzu Philippines Corp. may have preempted Honda Cars Philippines Inc. If you don't know it yet, Honda is reportedly planning to enter the lucrative AUV market this year by producing an AUV version of the CR-V, its popular compact SUV. But before the 2002 Honda CR-V could morph from SUV to AUV, Isuzu jumped in with an AUV that looks like an SUV and is presumably priced lower than a CR-V-cum-AUV.

Going back to the XUV (for Extreme Utility Vehicle), although it is built on the same platform and has the same engine and body as the XTO, it is 126 mm taller, thanks to Isuzu's lift-up engineering technology.

The XUV is now the tallest, biggest and widest AUV in the market. In fact, Isuzu Philippines Corp. deliberately made it as tall as the Isuzu Trooper to enhance the sport utility vehicle image. Viewed from behind, the XUV can be easily mistaken for the Trooper, not only because of its extraordinary height, but also because of its rear door-mounted spare tire carrier with body color-keyed cover. The XUV is the only AUV in the market today with a spare tire carrier in the rear.

Up front, Isuzu installed a bumper overrider with steel chrome garnish to give the XUV an aggressive appearance. To increase the macho appeal, the XUV was shod with the biggest tires among all the AUVs today—235 mm wide, 70 mm profile, 15-inch tires. And Michelin tires, no less.

The XUV's 6-stud, alloy silver magwheels are also the biggest wheel size in the AUV market.

Although other AUVs have wrap-around full-body cladding and fender flares like the XUV, none has the XUV's aluminum side stepboard with over fender-in-sync end caps. Competing AUVs don't need side stepboards because they are short, Isuzu brags.

Up on the XUV's roof, Isuzu bolted anodized aluminum silver roof rails with three black matte-finished legs. But the Toyota Revo VX200 and Sport Runner have roof rails as standard equipment, too.

Inside the XUV, Isuzu complemented the manly look with a full-leather package: leather seats and door trims, leather steering wheel, parking brake handle and gear shift knob—all with European-designed body color-keyed stitches and perforations. I, for one, found the XUV's black leather interior more elegant than those of other AUVs and high-end passenger cars.

In my review of the Crosswind XTO ("The Three-in-One Crosswind," Feb. 07), I mentioned the absence of a CD player as one of the minuses of the XTO. The XUV has filled the gap with a six-speaker Pioneer single in-dash CD/tuner. But, like the XTO, the XUV lacks an alarm system, cupholders and front map lamps.

Otherwise, all the Crosswind XTO's goodies are found in the XUV: Isuzu's robust, durable 2.5-liter direct-injection turbocharged diesel engine, overdrive feature, strong brakes, fog lamps, dual aircon and keyless entry.

At present, the XUV is priced at P849,000 for the automatic transmission and P809,000 for the manual. Taking all factors into account, the XUV deserves a look-see from families who want to buy a reliable people and cargo carrier that is an SUV dead-ringer but has an AUV price.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Don't hate me because you ain't me.

* * *

E-mail comments to aseville @inquirer.com.ph

Lastimoso writes, finally; Schumacher off to a flying start

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

LITO del Rosario of Bacolod has a suggestion. He wants car manufacturers to state in the car's literature/manual the kilometers/liter consumption of each model being sold.

"That will be a very valuable detail to customers," said Lito, who is also known as the father of actor Monsour del Rosario. "It will help them know which model is a gas miser and which is not."

He said several countries do that.

"So, why not also in the Philippines?" he asked.

"Perhaps, our lawmakers can look into this?

* * *

Finally, Roberto T. Lastimoso, who signs his letter as "Assistant Secretary" of the Department of Transportation and Communications, writes to say they will soon minimize the delays in the "issuance of Certificate Registration." The new chief of the Land Transportation Office also blames vehicle dealers insofar as delays of registration are concerned. Here's his letter in full:

"Dear Mr. Mendoza:

"This pertains to your column Full Tank 'LTO world's slowest government agency' which appeared in the Philippine Daily Inquirer issue of 14 February 2002.

"Please be informed that once the vehicle is sold, it is the responsibility of the dealers to submit to the LTO the complete supporting documents for the registration of the motor vehicle. One cause of delay is that the dealers compile their sales report before they submit them to the LTO Registration Section for the individual issuance of the Confirmation Certificate. Sometimes it takes weeks or months before we receive the complete documentation from dealers. The issuance of plates, as per LTO regulation, are (sic) issued sequentially but dealers often request special plates for some of their clients.

"With respect to the so-called delay in the issuance of Certificate Registration (sic), it is an office policy that if all the documentary requirements are complied with, the Certificate of Registration is immediately issued to the registrant together with the Official Receipt. With the full implementation of the LTO IT project in the NCR by the middle of this year, it will minimize the delays and shorten the processing.

"We hope that we clarified the issue and rest assured that this office appreciates your concern in improving the delivery of efficient and quality public service."

Thank you very much, Sir. Rest assured, too, that I am with you in your program to deliver efficient service to our people. That is what you and your fellow government officials are sworn to do, anyway.

Now, how about a word from our car dealers regarding the LTO chief's accusation that you yourselves contribute to the delay in the processing of certificates of registration?

* * *

I guess Michael Schumacher is bent on retaining his Formula 1 title this year. A gauge to that would be his victory on March 3 in the Formula One's kickoff this season in Melbourne.

It was just unfortunate that a pileup of cars occurred featuring, among others, Rubens Barrichello and Schumacher's own brother, Ralf Schumacher.

Miraculously, no one suffered major injuries, unlike last year when a race official was killed when Ralf Schumacher figured in an accident, also in Melbourne.

Only about eight racers finished on Sunday, with close to 20 cars (was it a total of 22?) not finishing the race due either to the crash or engine troubles.

The race marked the debut to Formula 1 racing of Toyota, with driver Mika Salo finishing the race although he was out of the points column.

* * *

Each time a Formula 1 race suffers a car crash, I think of the hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of pesos going down the drain. A Formula 1 car is so expensive that for a car to just suffer a dent, it could already possibly spell defeat for the driver.

But like fighter pilots, a Formula 1 driver is the ultimate in the world's most dangerous, most expensive of all motor sports.

Never mind that a Formula 1 car gets damaged, or totally wrecked. The important thing is, when a crash happens, the driver is safe from career-ending injuries. The car, though costing millions of bucks, can always be replaced. Not a good driver, though. He comes only once in a blue moon.

* * *

QUOTE ME: Surrender your ID and not your driver's license to any guard while entering any village in the country. The guard is not liable when your license gets lost.

WRX now in RP

By Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE ARRIVAL of the rally-inspired high-performance all-wheel drive (AWD) sporting sedan, the Subaru Impreza WRX, was announced last Friday by General Motors Automobiles Philippines.

The WRX is the hot version of the Impreza, the winner of three consecutive World Rally Championships (1995-1997). The 2002 WRX is all-new with a new 2.0-liter 4 cam 16-valve turbocharged four- cylinder horizontally opposed ("boxer") engine producing max 160 kw horsepower at 5,600 rpm and max torque 292 Nm/3,600 rpm. With these specs, the WRX is capable of hitting 100 kilometers per hour from zero in 5.7 seconds.

New performance icon

The 2002 WRX has already won four awards: "2002 Automobile of the Year" award of Automobile magazine (January 2002, United States); one of The Ten Best Cars chosen by Car and Driver magazine (January 2002, US); "The Best Sport Car Under $56,000" by Australian Leading Motoring Organization (November 2001), "The Most Sporty Car, 2001" by Sports Auto magazine (November 2001, Germany). Automobile magazine wrote, "The WRX not only stands toe-to-toe with much pricier German cars, but it establishes itself as a new performance icon."

The WRX, which comes only with manual transmission, has a center- differential type AWD with viscous LSD (limited slip differential) for sure-footed acceleration. The 2002 WRX's front suspension geometry and body structure rigidity have been improved while its aluminum hood makes it 8 kilograms lighter than the previous generation's steel one. L-shaped aluminum lower arms were adopted to achieve superior driveability. Also new or improved: a large, efficient intercooler, new design air-intake manifold, four-wheel independent suspension and improved low- emission turbo.

Features

True to Subaru's "Active Driving, Active Safety" credo, the WRX has dual airbags, ABS, a new ring- shaped body reinforcement using the mash seam method, new and additional frames. The boxer engine's low center of gravity allows it to slide under the floor instead of penetrating the passenger cabin in case of a frontal collision.

Other features are leather bucket seats, a sports gauge pack, aluminum pedals, 17-inch aluminum alloy wheels, short gear shift lever tuned by STi (Subaru Technica International), air-leather aluminum shift knob and aluminum gear frame.

The most important features of the WRX, however, are its boxer turbo engine ensuring superior cornering and handling with improved stability and less body roll during curves; and its symmetrical full-time AWD chassis for excellent traction and control.

GM Philippines initially brought in 10 CBUs (completely built units) of the 2002 WRX from Japan and all 10 have already been sold at P2.1 million each.

Malaysia gears up for F1 race

By Charles E. Buban

ONE more week, and its going to be Malaysia's turn to host the second round of the fastest motor sports in the world. The Formula One race, now on its 53rd season, goes to 100,000 capacity Sepang F1 Circuit in Kuala Lumpur where the Malaysian Grand Prix will kick off on March 17.

"Last year's Malaysian Grand Prix showed the world that this circuit was one of the most exciting races ever. It should be remembered that drivers and team strategists had to call upon all their experience in order to conquer the circuit when monsoon rains drenched certain parts of the tracks," says Izuddin Rosli, Sepang F1 Circuit sales manager who visited the country last month to promote the race.

Previously, the Malaysian Grand Prix has been the final event of the season, but starting last year in only its third year, the race has been moved to follow the first round in Melbourne, Australia.

Center of attention

All eyes will again be focused on the German driver, Michael Schumacher who was last year's Malaysian Grand Prix champion. Schumacher has made the perfect start to his campaign to claim five Formula One titles by winning the first race of the new season in Australia. This was his 54th career win and third straight in the Australian circuit. Schumacher already has the record for most career wins (54), fastest laps (44) and points (801).

PETRONAS
MALAYSIA

WILL Michael Schumacher and Ferrari team continue their winning streak in Malaysia?

EXPECT tougher competition in next week's second round of Formula One race

This year, the world's highest paid sportsman will attempt to win a record-tying fifth drivers' champions in his old F2001 Ferrari car. This season, he is in a good position to match the career record of Argentine great Juan Manuel Fangio of five titles, set in the 1950s.

Also getting spotlight among the 11 Formula One teams participating this season, is newcomer Toyota that stunned F1 world by scoring a world championship point at sixth place on its debut. Veteran driver Mika Salo, who has made 92 starts with a host of teams including Ferrari, leads the spectacular finish.

Newest Grand Prix circuit

The 5.542-km Sepang F1 Circuit was built in 1999 and is Formula One's newest circuit. It offers some of the best facilities in sports, including the largest grandstand in Formula One. This double frontage grandstand has a capacity to seat 30,000 spectators that overlooks two longest straights in the circuit.

The Sepang F1 Circuit has already been heralded as one of the world's best racetracks with a minimum width of 16 ft. "The track is very wide even by modern Grand Prix standards. Its main attraction is these two relatively strong straights joined by a hairpin corner that offers drivers good opportunities for overtaking," describes Rosli.

With a race distance of 56 km and a race length of 310.352 km, the Sepang F1 Circuit poses a challenge to any world-class driver. The track surpasses all specifications set by the Federation Internationale de'l Automobile (FIA).

The unpredictable Malaysian weather is also another challenge for drivers and race strategists. "The success or failure of one team sometimes depends on how one reads the weather. Even heat and humidity play a role in this circuit and should not be taken for granted," adds Rosli.

The Sepang F1 Circuit has a seven-year contract with the F1 governing committee to host the Malaysian Grand Prix until 2005.

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TARGET: FIRST E-BANK

Banco de Oro eyes backdoor listing

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HONDA

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANCO de Oro, a universal bank controlled by the family of Henry Sy, is planning to buy a publicly listed bank and simply do a backdoor listing of its shares to comply with the requirement of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

A source from the central bank said Banco de Oro might shelve its plan to do an initial public offering and instead buy a bank whose shares are listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Another source said Banco de Oro could be the party that was negotiating to buy First e-Bank, formerly PDCP Bank, which is controlled by the Metro Pacific Group.

First e-Bank is a thrift lender that would receive a fresh P2.3 billion from new and existing shareholders, according to the central bank. Banco de Oro was reported to be one of the lenders interested in acquiring the savings bank and its branches.

A source explained that Banco de Oro's acquisition of First e-Bank would not only solve its long-standing concern on listing but also provide the 13th largest lender with the branches that it needed as part of its expansion program.

The Sy-controlled bank is talking with three banks for the acquisition of several branches to support the integrated expansion program of the SM Group of Companies.

"The Sy family is expanding its malls so the bank is on the lookout for more branches. It is talking with two to three banks for the acquisition of more branches," the source said.

Banco de Oro has more than 100 branches and expansion follows the strategy of its affiliate, SM Prime, to put up a bank in every mall.

The Sy family also has a substantial stake in China Banking Corp., the country's 11th largest bank with assets of P81.72 billion as of last year. Banco de Oro's assets were worth P75.56 billion as of end-2001.

The capitalization of Banco de Oro is more than P11 billion, having doubled it from P5.5 billion more than a year ago. It had received last year a $50-million capital infusion from Cayman Island-based Cambridge Pacific Fund Ltd.

The central bank had been prodding the Sy-controlled bank to list its shares as it was the only universal lender that had not gone public, which was required under its expanded banking license.

Banco de Oro must offer to the public at least 10 percent of its outstanding shares within three years after obtaining its license to operate as a universal bank.A Banco de Oro official earlier said the universal bank would try to hold its initial public offering this year and planned to sell a 10- to 15-percent stake through the local stock market.

Developer cites 'force majeure' to renegotiate John Hay rent

BAGUIO CITY—Blaming the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) for delays that had cost them four years of "potential revenues," developers of Camp John Hay will cite "force majeure" to obtain new rent terms from Malacañang.

Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDC), which was formed to develop a P2.6-billion John Hay tourism estate at the former US military facility, is at the receiving end of criticisms from the city council here for failing to pay a three-year rent backlog.

It also faced the expiration on Feb. 28 of a BCDA deadline for the developers to pay the backlog or face sanctions. John Hay critics place the debt at P1.2 billion.

But lawyer Gina Alvarez, CJHDC legal counsel, said the rent dues only amounted to P296 million because of a BCDA document allowing rent adjustments from 1998 to 2000, and a system of offsetting the obligations using pieces of property and company shares.

Alvarez said the rent crisis was traceable to the BCDA's "numerous lapses."

"We have always been the (BCDA's) punching bag in public, but we have raised our main points before the proper authorities (to explain why the firm cannot abide by the original rent agreement)," she said.

She said the CJHDC would reassert "force majeure" during talks next week that would address the lease rental dues covering the first two years of the Macapagal administration.

"Force majeure" refers to conditions in legal contracts that are asserted once a situation "that is beyond anyone's control" proves financially disadvantageous to a contracting party.

According to a Fil-Estate executive brief obtained by the INQUIRER, "force majeure" refers to five "factual, legal and technical issues clearly within the responsibility of BCDA (and its subsidiary, John Hay Poro Point Development Corp. or JPDC)," which restricted and delayed their work program.

Both BCDA and JPDC were put to task for a 31.8-hectare property shortfall that the government had apparently concealed when it leased 246 ha of the former American base land in a 1996 public bidding, according to the Fil-Estate document.

Fil-Estate assumed the lease on Oct. 19, 1996 from Manuela Land and Holdings, which won the bidding but later withdrew because of the same property shortfall questions.

Malacañang only addressed the shortfall on May 31, 2000, by relinquishing the controversial 27.4-hectare forested lot formerly managed by the Voice of America (VoA), Alvarez said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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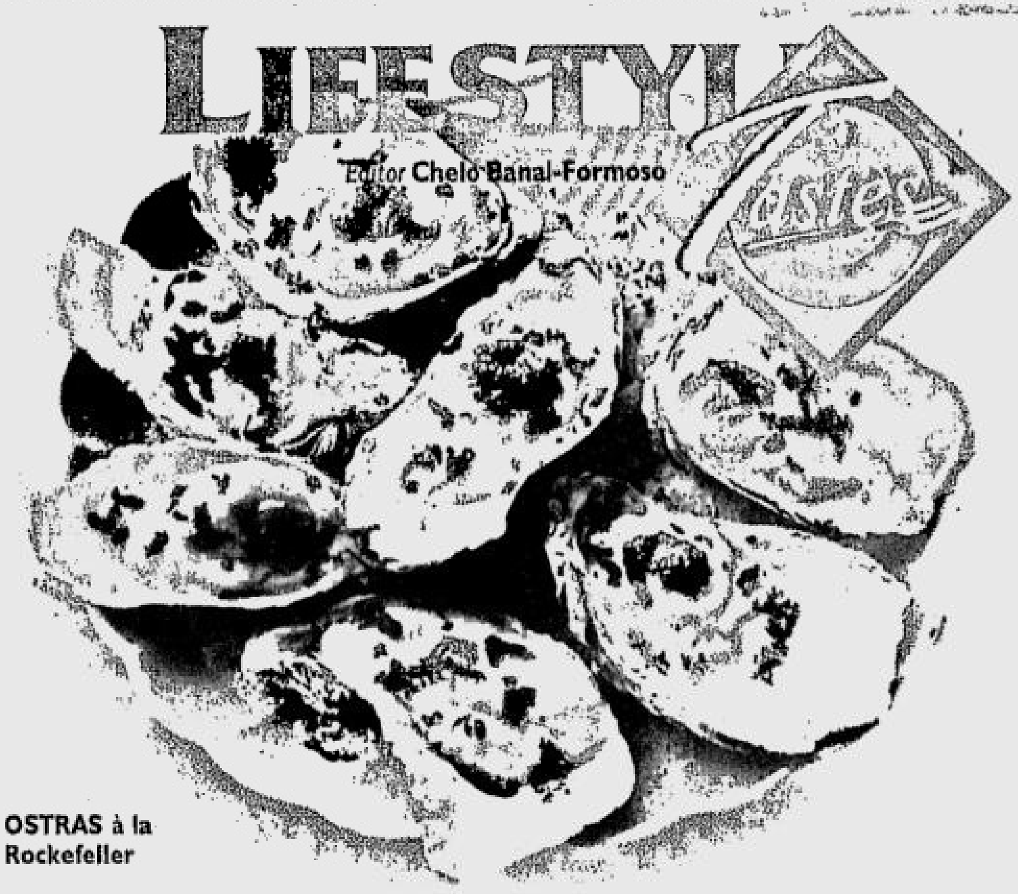
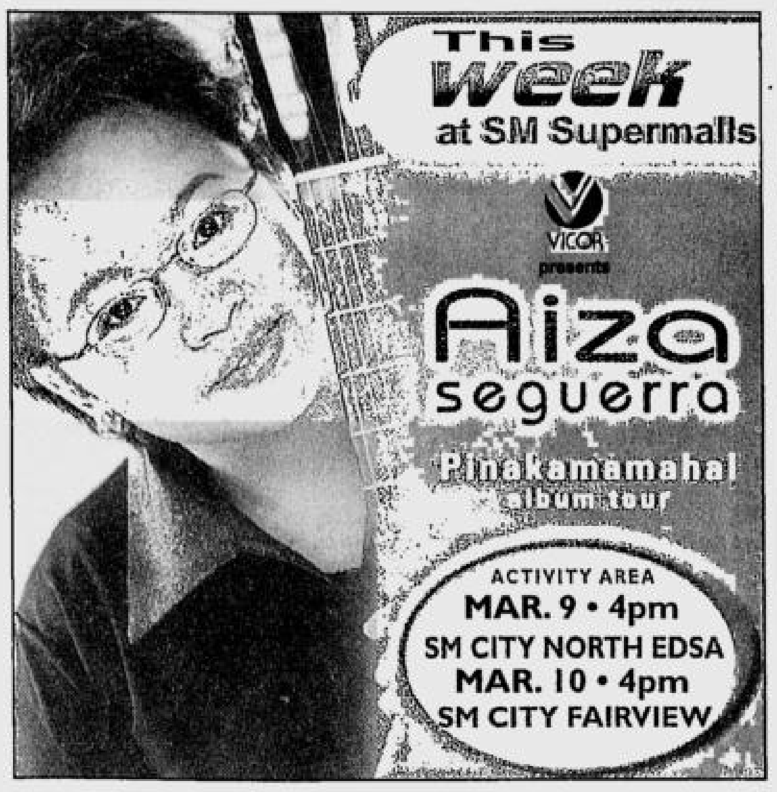
or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph



OSTRAS à la Rockefeller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Seafood nuances

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Mike Alquinto

FOR RAMON del Gallego Jr., owner of Las Paellas Restaurant, seafood generally allows more creativity than meat. Myriad species, each with distinct characteristics, license him to revel in a spectrum of textural and taste differences.

When preparing seafood dishes for his outlets at 55 Timog Ave., QC, and 6465 Alabang-Zapote, Muntinlupa City, Gallego focuses on combinations and presentations. "I lean toward anything experimental."

> Since Las Paellas was established in 1997, its Thang Long Crabs and Paella Valenciana have been bestsellers

The appetizer menu shines with creativity: Ostras à la Rockefeller (oysters baked in Hollandaise sauce and spinach); Gambas al Ajillo (shrimps sauteed in olive oil, garlic and chili pepper); Calamares Castellana (grilled squid topped with olive oil and vinegar sauce sprinkled with crispy garlic); Rabas Fritas (deep-fried squid tentacles served with alioli sauce). Tabla de Sardinas Picantes (imported spicy Spanish sardines) transcends the dreary status of sardines.

Gallego's inspiration comes from his travels abroad, visits to other restaurants and research, resulting in a multifarious mix of influences.

"The biggest challenge when planning the menu was to get random samples of different cultures' seafood ideas and to pull them together as a whole," Gallego says. That means using not only a vast array of ingredients but a wide range of ethnic cooking techniques.

"You can do anything with fish," he says, a point illustrated by menu items such as Bacalao à la Vizcaina (traditional dried salted codfish simmered in fresh tomato sauce); Pescado En Salsa Verde (fillets of *lapu-lapu* topped with mushrooms, herbs, sun-dried tomatoes and capers); Blue Marlin Al Zapote

SEAFOOD/ p.C4

RAMON del Gallego Jr., owner of Las Paellas

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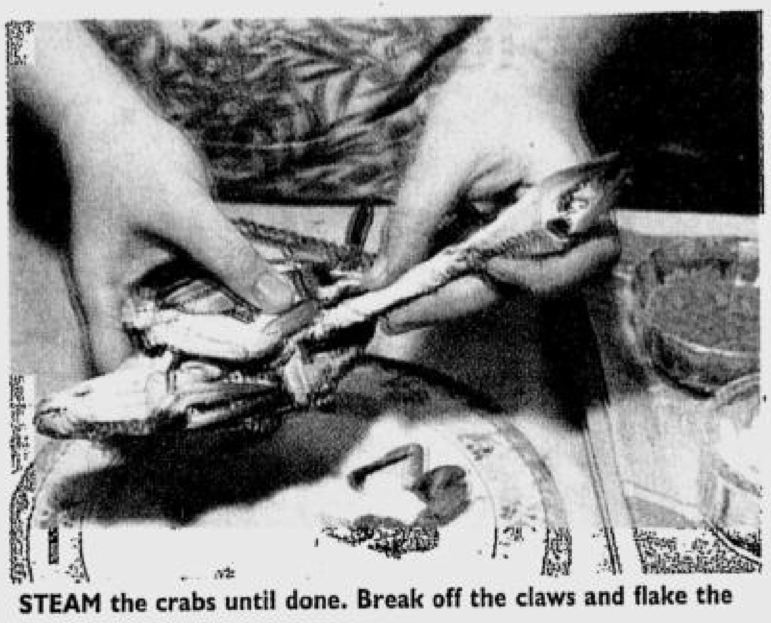
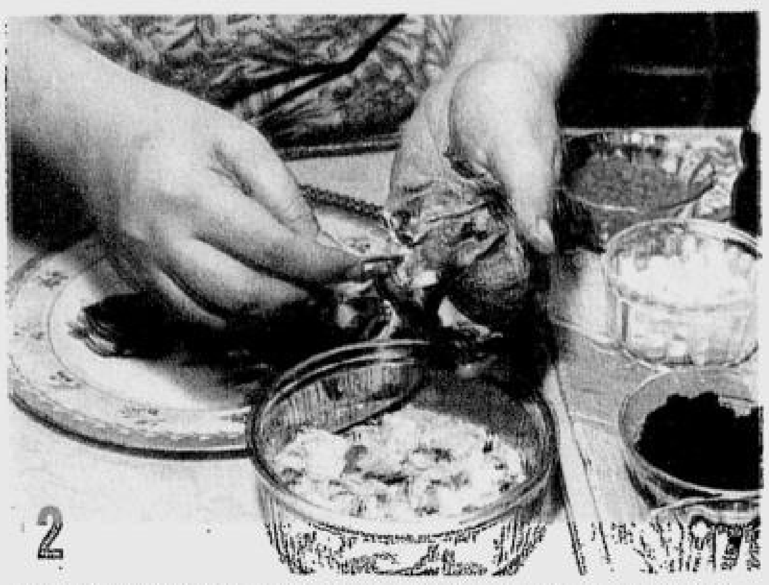


STEAM the crabs until done. Break off the claws and flake the meat.



CAREFULLY separate the outer shell from the body. Flake the meat and the fat. Rinse the outer shells and pat dry; set aside.

HEAT the oil in a frying pan. Sauté garlic, onions and tomatoes.

Why serve plain crabs when you can stuff them?

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

THE SEASON of Lent temporarily bids goodbye to pork and beef (and fowl, to some), and welcomes the goodness and splendor of seafood and vegetables. There are various ways and techniques in cooking seafood dishes: steamed, deep-fried, coated in batter or served in their shells.

For this recipe, culinary expert Dorothy Ferreria prepares a special Lenten dish called Crab Relleno, which makes use of crabmeat instead of ground pork. Crabs have firm and sweet flesh. Dorothy says to enjoy crabs at their best, buy them fresh and live. Choose crabs that feel heavy for their sizes.

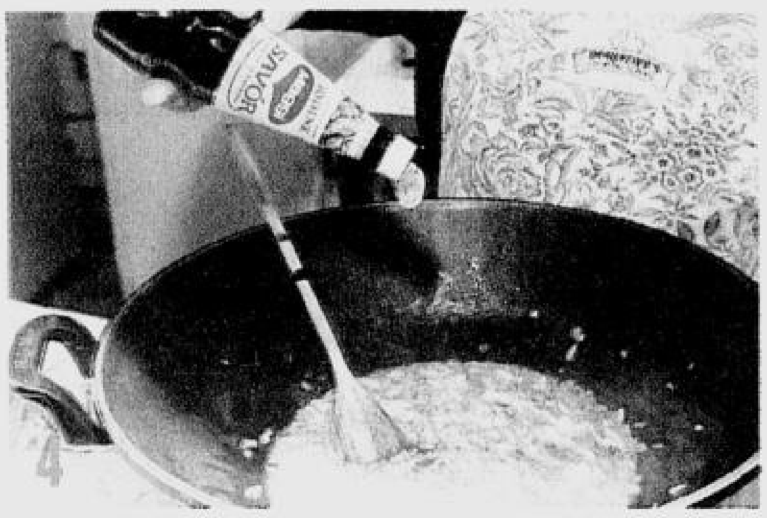
STEP BY STEP

The two surest guides to quality are the crab's weight and the condition of its shell. The meat of the female crab is preferable to that of the male; females contain more flesh, male crabs yield little meat. Reject crabs that are lightweight. Male crabs can be distinguished from female crabs by the smaller tail flap on their undersides. These days, crabs are sold from P130-P200 per kilo, depending on their weight.

For Crab Relleno, Dorothy uses the crabmeat, flakes it and sautés it with other veggies and spices. She carefully scrapes out the flesh from the shell and keeps the empty crab for reuse later. It's best to steam the crab before getting the meat. Then, when it's cool enough to handle, snap off the legs as close to the body as possible. Break each leg apart at the central joint, then, with a skewer, remove the thin slivers of flesh from the hollow center. Snap each claw free near the body before carefully cracking the shell.

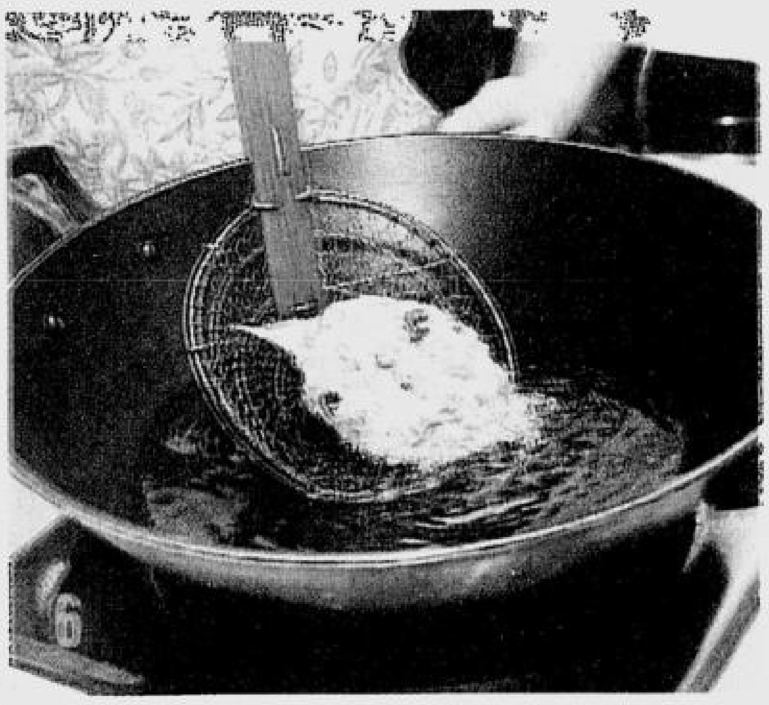
Ingredients:
4 pc *alimasag*
3 tbsp corn oil
1 tbsp minced garlic
½ c chopped onions
¼ c chopped tomatoes
½ c peeled and diced potatoes
1/3 c peeled and diced carrots
½ c water
1 pack Maggi Flavor It Shrimp Powder
1 tsp Maggi Savor, Garlic Flavor
Salt and pepper to taste
¼ c cubed Magnolia Cheddar Cheese
½ c raisins
¼ c chopped spring onions
2 whole eggs
½ c breadcrumbs
Oil for frying

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com

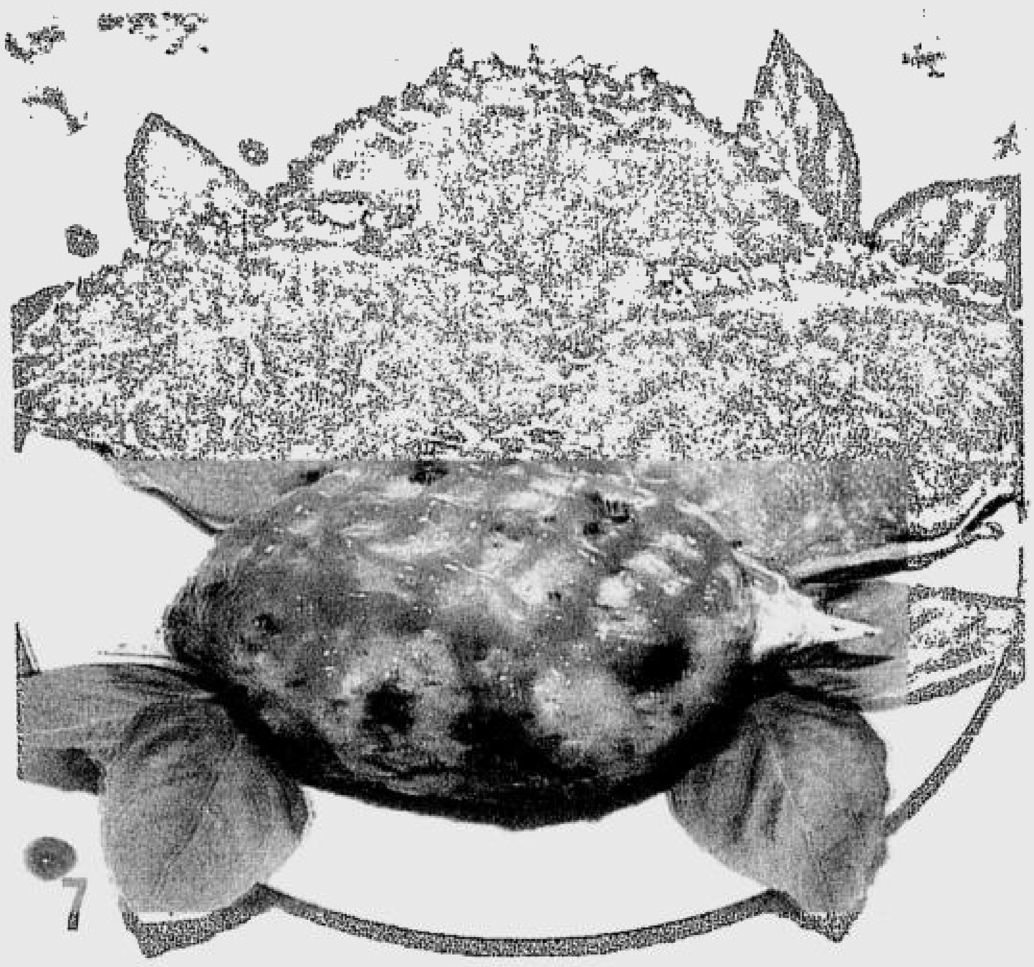


ADD potatoes, carrots, water, shrimp powder, pepper and seasonings. Allow to boil then simmer until the potatoes are done. Transfer in a clean bowl and set aside to cool completely.

TO THE SAUTÉED mixture add the cheese, raisins, spring onions, eggs, breadcrumbs and flaked crabmeat; mix well. Divide the mixture among the shells, forming exaggerated mounds.



USING a wire mesh strainer, deep-fry crabs in oil one at a time until light golden brown.



SERVE stuffed crab with tomato catsup or sweet and sour sauce.

Seafood delights

Friday's Gambas

10 pc large shrimps
1 c olive oil

Spice mix:
1 tsp red pepper flakes
1 tsp oregano, ground
1 tsp thyme, ground
2 tbsp garlic powder
1 tsp paprika
2 tbsp chili powder
1 tsp cayenne pepper
½ onion, white, finely chopped
1 tbsp garlic, whole mashes
60 ml Worcestershire sauce
30 ml white wine
60 ml heavy cream
2 tsp unsalted butter
Salt and pepper

Peel jumbo shrimps; reserve shells. Sprinkle peeled shrimps with 2 tbsp olive oil, half of spice mix and marinate for 30 minutes; set aside.

To make Friday's Gambas Barbecue Sauce: Heat 1 tbsp of oil. Add onions and garlic, and sauté until it begins to brown (about 3 minutes). Add reserved shrimp shells, other half of the spice mix, Worcestershire sauce, heavy cream and white wine. Bring to a boil and simmer for 5 minutes. Strain into a clean sauce pan and boil till slightly thick. Remove from heat and whisk butter and season.

Shrimp *gambas*:
10 pc shrimp, marinated in spice mix
20 g green pepper, large, diced
20 g red onions, large, diced
20 g red pepper, large, diced
1 tbsp butter
1/3 c Friday's *gambas* sauce
1 tbsp vegetable oil
1/3 garlic, whole, mashed
White rice

Heat sauté pan. Add butter until melted. Sauté red and green pepper and onions. Cook for 1½ minutes till slightly soft. Add garlic and sauté till light brown. Add shrimp, then Friday's Gambas barbecue sauce. Serve with white rice.

Recipes courtesy of TGI Friday's

Flavorful treats

Supreme Prawns Thermidor

3 pc medium-sized tiger prawns
1 tbsp cooking oil
1 tbsp minced garlic
3 tbsp Thermidor sauce (mixture of Worcestershire sauce and red wine)
3 tsp shredded Parmesan cheese
1 pc lemon wedge
1 sprig of parsley
Garlic-butter pasta

Blanch the prawns until it turns pink. Peel the prawns by splitting its back. Remove meat from the shell (be careful not to damage the shell). Set prawns' shell aside (with its head still on). Slice the prawns' meat to ½ inch. Sauté garlic in oil and add the meat and Thermidor sauce. Boil a little, and afterward scoop the meat back to its shell.

Sprinkle the cooked prawns with Parmesan cheese and bake till golden brown. Serve in a plate with garlic-butter pasta.

To prepare the pasta: Sauté 1 tbsp garlic in butter until golden brown. Toss cooked spaghetti pasta. Prepare pasta sauce by mixing 1 tbsp of diced onion in 1 tbsp cooking oil until light brown, and add ¼ c of white wine and 1 c all-purpose cream. Boil and simmer.

Supreme Blackened Salmon

1 pc 6-oz fresh salmon
3 tbsp melted butter
2 tbsp blacken seasoning (mixture of Cajun seasonings, i.e. cayenne, paprika, black pepper)
1½ scoops of mashed potatoes
1 portion organic garden salad
1 sprig of parsley
1 pc lemon wedge

Dip salmon in melted butter. Sprinkle it with blacken seasoning, covering the entire fish. Pan sear the salmon for 2-3 minutes on each side or until cooked. Drain excess oil.

Prepare the salad (with thousand island or Italian vinaigrette dressing) and arrange it with cooked salmon and prepared mashed potatoes.

Chicken Steak Supreme

3 pc breast chicken fillet
Pinch of salt and pepper
1 tbsp lemon juice
90 g Diane sauce (mixture of Worcestershire sauce and all-purpose cream)
¼ c caper salsa (mixture of onion, tomatoes, caper and vinegar)
1 pc lime wedge
1 sprig of parsley
Garlic-butter pasta

Marinate the chicken with lemon juice and salt and pepper. Grill the chicken, creating grill marks. Prepare the plate, ladle the sauce and pour into the plate. Spread the sauce by tilting the plate, half side only. Arrange grilled chicken on top of the sauce in overlapping position.

Top the chicken with caper salsa. Twist the pasta on the other side of the plate. Garnish with lemon wedge and sprig of parsley.

To prepare the pasta: Sauté 1 tbsp garlic in butter until golden brown. Toss cooked spaghetti pasta. Prepare the pasta sauce by sautéing 1 tbsp onion in 1 tbsp oil until light brown. Add ¼ c white wine and 1 c all-purpose cream. Boil and simmer.

Recipes courtesy of Burgoo

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What to eat for Lent? Try the Popcorn Shrimp Sandwich from Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits. Popcorn Shrimp Sandwich is a generous serving of popcorn shrimps served in a toasted sesame-seed bun dressed with tartar sauce and fresh lettuce.
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Bangus attracts diners in US, Canada

HERE'S good news for Filipino families overseas who love milkfish (*bangus*). The country's pride is now available in the United States, Canada and Europe, courtesy of Alson's Aqua Technologies Inc. (Aati), which produces the well-renowned Sarangani *bangus.*

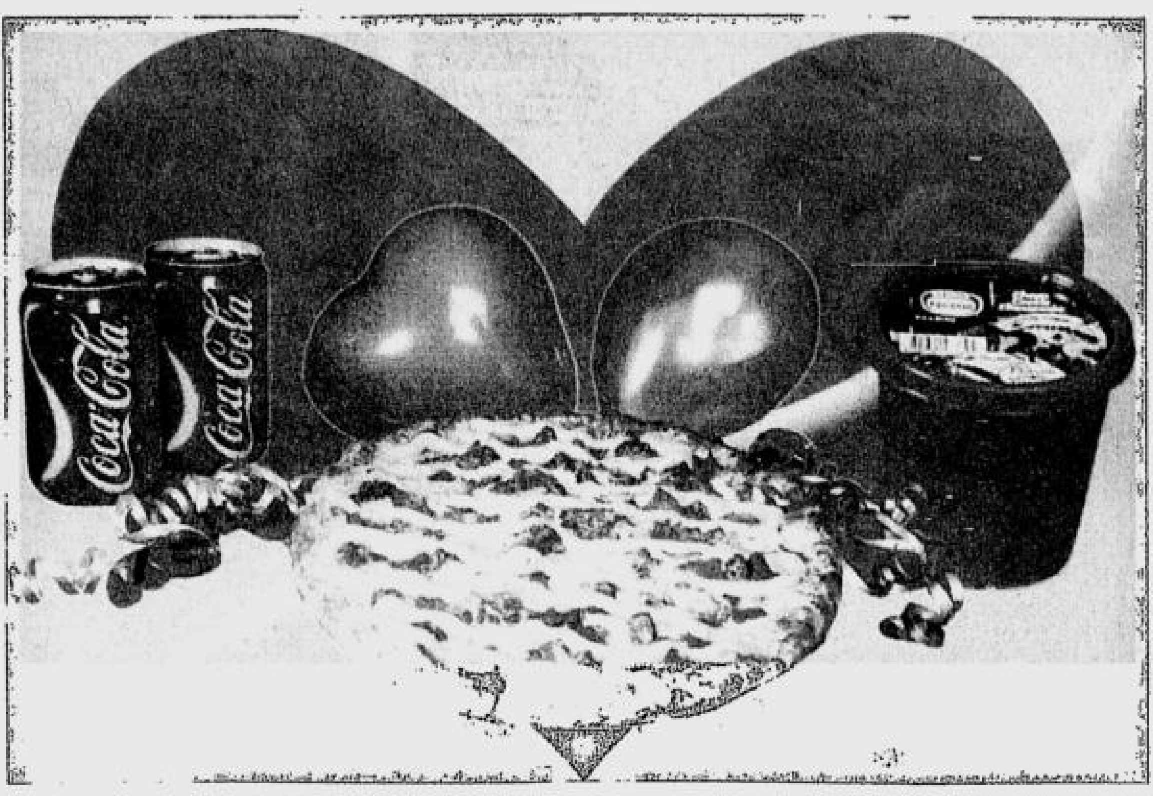
Considered one of the smallest provinces in the country (with only municipalities), Sarangani is now a byword among Pinoy families. Aati's 1,000-hectare agro-industrial complex in the South produces export *bangus* in value-added varieties—smoked deboned (*tinapa*), fresh frozen deboned belly, fillet, baby splin, fresh frozen whole and descaled.

Aati's *bangus* is grown in the pristine waters of Sarangani Bay. The said firm produces 4,000 tons of milkfish a year, half of it exported to the US and Canada, and the rest to the European market.

Today, Aati supplies 90 percent of the value-added variety required by the Northern American market, but it still accounts for only 10 percent of the total *bangus* market, including the fresh variety.

On the other hand, the local market, which absorbs 50 percent of AATI's *bangus* production, is mainly for Manila, Davao and Gen. Santos City. It sells about 30 tons a month to Manila, while the rest is equally divided between Davao and GenSan.

Recently, the firm formed FinFish Hatcheries Inc. in partnership with a Taiwanese company, formally opening a new market in the Asian region. FinFree info/data maybe obtained at Aati Manila Office at Stall 507 Building 5, Sirloin Road, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.



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Jollibee brings to life this childhood fantasy with Jolly Kiddie Meal's Jolly Funland, a five-piece miniature playset.

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Jolly Kiddie meal
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CONNECT ALL 5 TOYS!
Witness amazing act
Promo Period
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HRAP holds food safety course

THE HOTEL and Restaurant Association of the Phils. (HRAP), with Ecolab Philippines, organizes the ServSafe course on March 13 and 14 at the Acceed Center of AIM.

ServSafe is a food safety program that enables participants to practice food-handling techniques, and will give them a clear understanding of the importance and consequences of food poisoning and food contamination. The program was developed by the Education Foundation of the National Restaurant Association of the United States.

HRAP wants to uplift the food safety standards of the hospitality industry with this initial step. The course is open to all HRAP members and nonmembers alike. Call the HRAP secretariat at 527-9926.

Bazaar features Canadian food and wine industry

GET the chance to sample a wide selection of Canadian foods and wines, and for a worthy charitable cause, on March 17, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City. Entrance fee is P50.

"A Taste of Canada" is organized by a group of Canadian women living in Manila. "We wanted to raise money for a local women's shelter and at the same time introduce Canadian products to the Philippines," says Ditas Baird, one of the bazaar organizers.

The proceeds will go to the construction of the Gentle Hands Women's Shelter in Pililla, Rizal. The shelter will house battered women and single mothers who have nowhere to go.

"These women and children have no other choices, and many of their lives are at risk," says Denie Heppner, one of the shelter's administrators. Heppner is part of a Canadian husband-and-wife team running a birthing center in QC.

"We have a temporary shelter right now for the most desperate cases," Heppner says. "But we have had to turn away hundreds because we just don't have the space."

Featured delicacies at the bazaar are smoked salmon, gourmet cheeses, patés, pasta and wines, including the world-famous Canadian ice wines. The bazaar will also feature a raffle and a silent auction.

Canada's agri-food sector is one of the oldest sectors of the economy, deeply rooted in Canadian history and culture; it has become one of the most dynamic, high-tech industries in Canada. The industry produces a wide range of high-quality products. It is one of Canada's Top 5 industries and accounts for about 8.5 percent of the Canadian gross domestic product.

Canada has a solid reputation around the world for food safety. It boasts of world-class management in its agri-food sector, supported by cutting-edge research at federal, provincial and university research centers.

Canada's food inspection system is internationally recognized as among the best in the world. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency programs and inspection and sampling procedures are continuously reviewed and refined.

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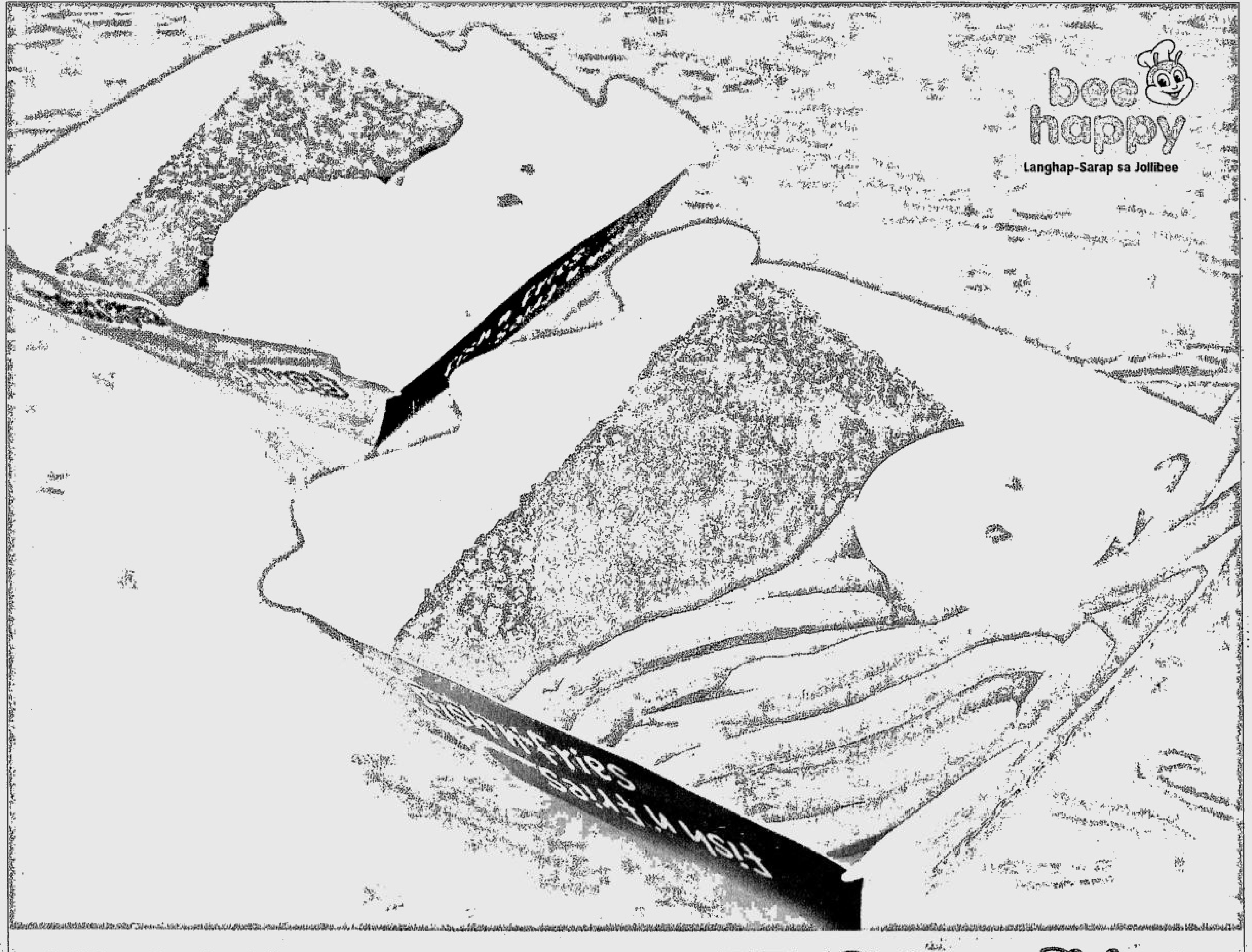


Jollibee Catch of the Day

Jollibee Fish n' Fries and Fish n' Rice. A tender fish fillet deep-fried to a perfect golden brown and served with a special tartar dip. Enjoy it with good ol' fries or steaming rice. Catch 100% real fish goodness only at Jollibee.

₱55 each

Fish n' Fries
Fish n' Rice

CANGREJOS Al Thang Long

TABLA de Sardinas Picantes

Seafood nuances

From page C1

(blue marlin grilled in butter topped with *à la pobre* sauce) and Lapu-lapu àla Vizcaina (filets of *lapu-lapu* simmered in fresh tomato sauce).

Asked to share tips for working with seafood, he volunteers the universal "buy only the best." To that end, he has a network of suppliers from Roxas City and Masbate.

The 31-year-old restaurateur says that he was able to put up Las Paellas through the help of his father, who owns The Filling Station and Arnold's Diner. For six months, he trained under Don Anastacio de Alba. "I'm grateful for all Don Alba has taught me."

Paella promo

Since Las Paellas was established in 1997, its Thang Long Crabs and Paella Valenciana have been the restaurant's bestsellers. "As our patrons would put it... a perfect combination," Gallego says. Thang Long Crabs features steamed king crab on a bed of garlic and butter sauce. Eating this dish is a roll-up-your-sleeves kind of sport.

The garlic's tangy flavor and crab's saltiness also bring out the fragrant seafood nuances of Paella Valenciana. Though Paella Valenciana has evolved into its many versions, its vital ingredients such as saffron, olive oil and rice create the distinct flavor of this Spanish specialty.

For the months of March and April, diners at Las Paellas can get a single order of Paella Valenciana for free if they order Thang Long Crabs.

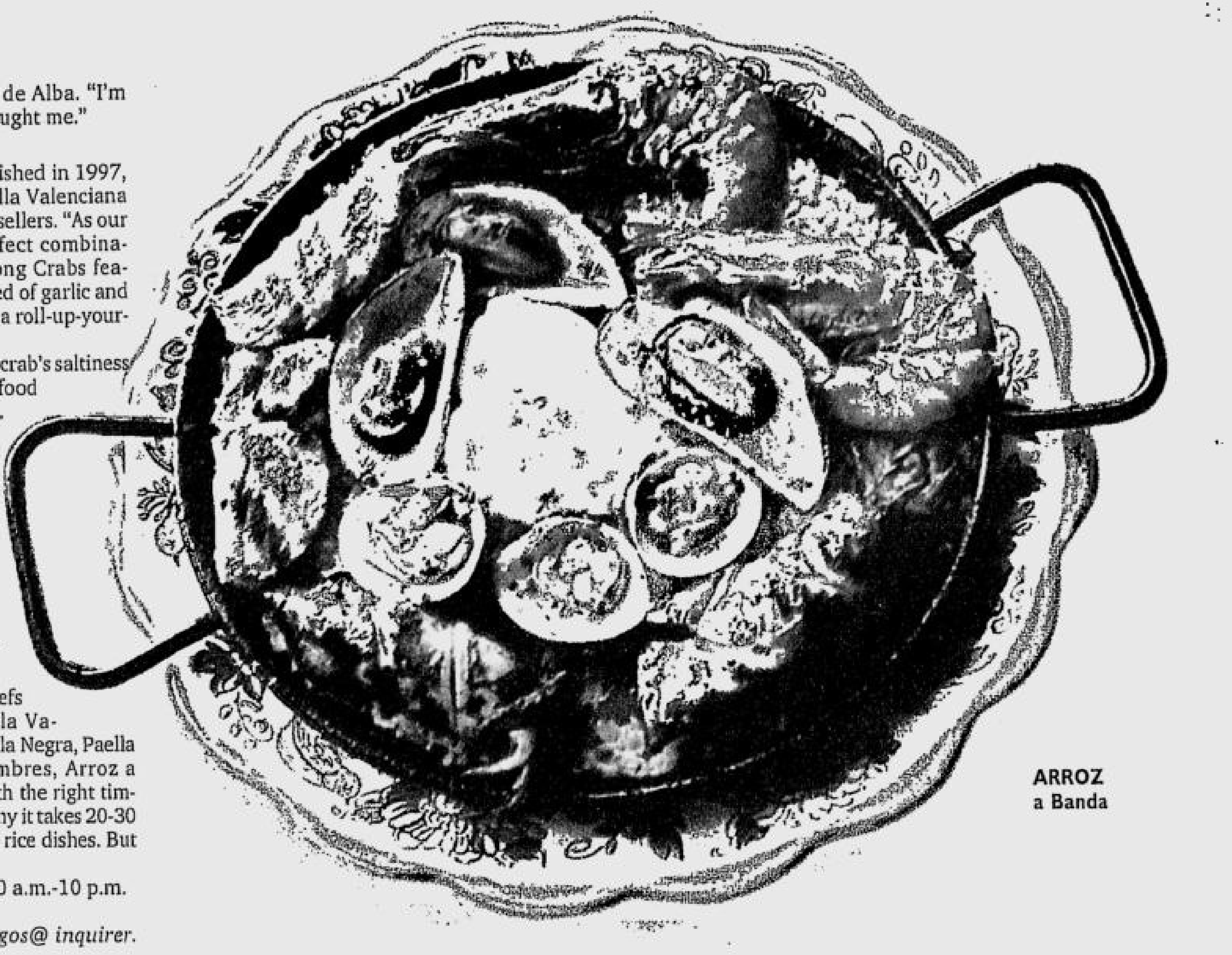
Just like the old days, the chefs of Las Paellas prepare Paella Valenciana, Paella Marinera, Paella Negra, Paella de Bacalao, Paella de Legumbres, Arroz a Banda and Arroz con Pollo with the right timing and correct flavor. That's why it takes 20-30 minutes to cook these Spanish rice dishes. But the wait is well worth it.

Las Paellas is open daily, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

E-mail the author at rburgos@ inquirer.com.ph

Las Paellas

LANGOSTINOS à la Parilla



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LIFESTYLE

Spanish, French and Mediterranean dining on Libis

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

THE WORD is Spanish for supper: *cena*. But as a restaurant (181 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, QC; telefax 912-6014; e-mail cenarestaurant@yahoo.com), it sports an accent, thus: Cená. Why, we wondered. "Feng shui," answered Chris Escudero, the personable manager, to the manner born, because he is totally enthusiastic about good food be it his or others'.

Cená is on the second floor, with its kitchen on the first: unusual but not inconvenient, because up there the view is better and reaches further. One does have to climb 33 steps on a slope,

SPANISH/ p.D4

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- MAKATI
G/F 111 PASEO DE ROXAS BLDG. PASEO DE ROXAS ST. COR LEGASPI ST LEGASPI VILLAGE
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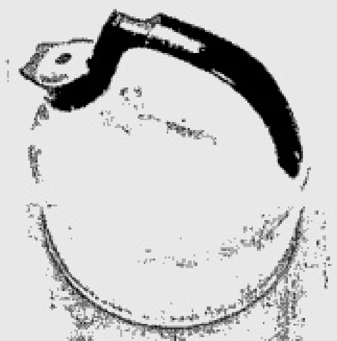
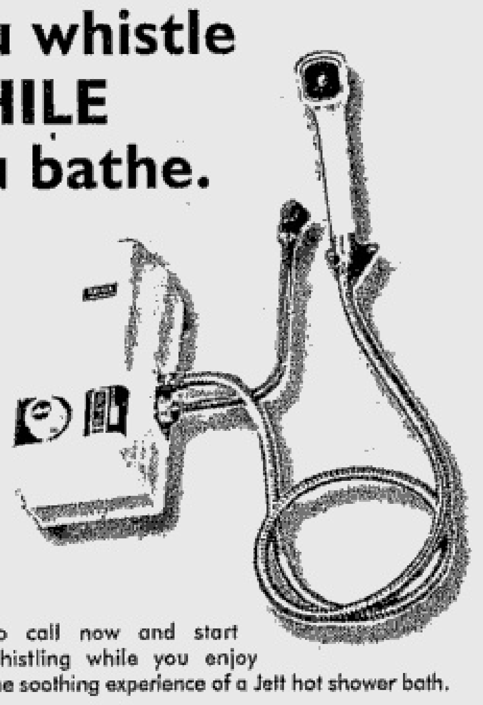


You whistle WHILE you bathe.



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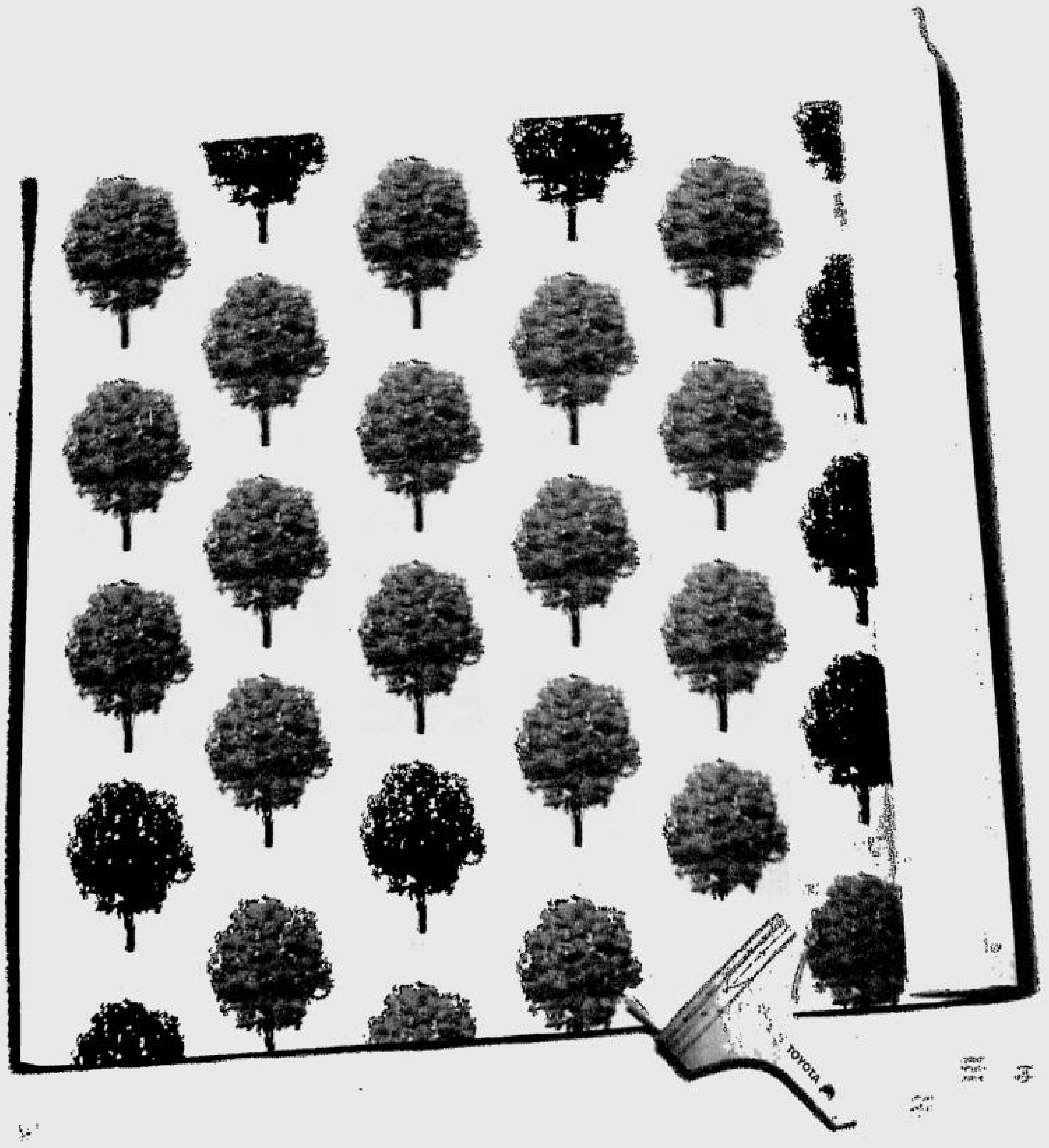
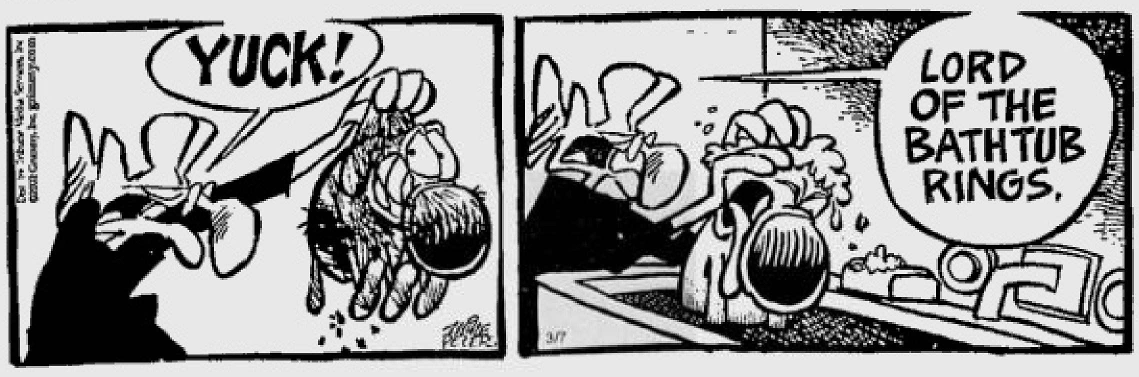


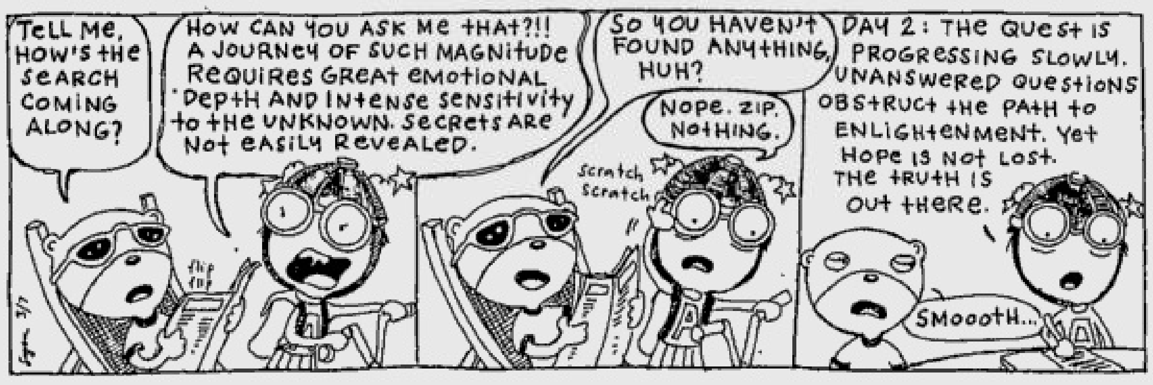
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


YUCK!
LORD OF THE BATHTUB RINGS.

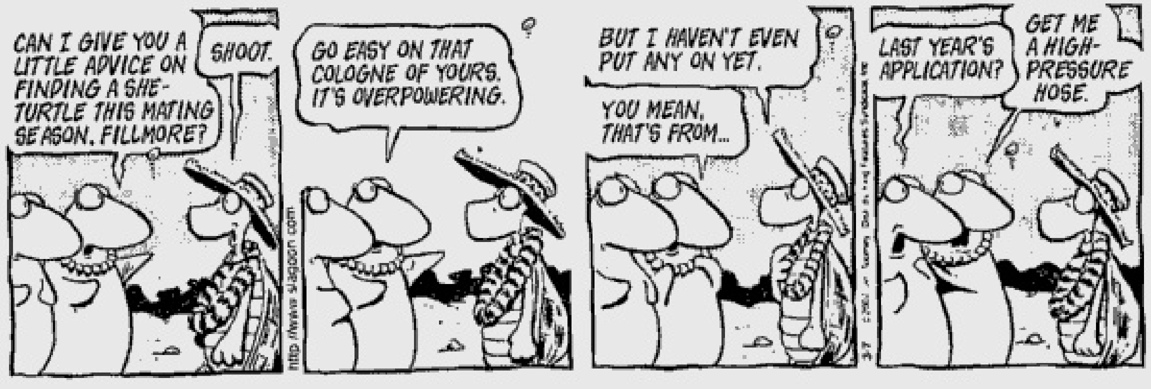
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Tell me, how's the search coming along?
How can you ask me that?!! A journey of such magnitude requires great emotional depth and intense sensitivity to the unknown. Secrets are not easily revealed.
flip flip
So you haven't found anything, huh?
Nope. Zip. Nothing.
Scratch Scratch
Day 2: The quest is progressing slowly. Unanswered questions obstruct the path to enlightenment. Yet hope is not lost. The truth is out there.
SMooothH...

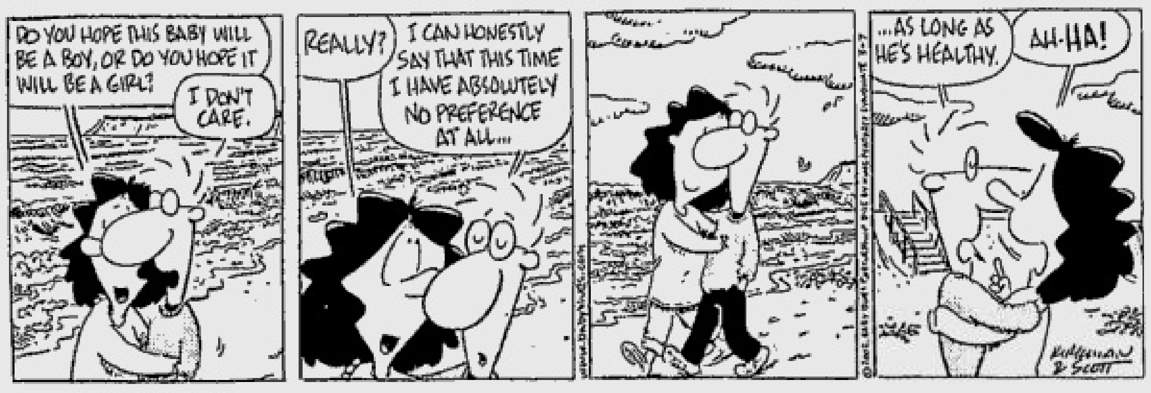
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


CAN I GIVE YOU A LITTLE ADVICE ON FINDING A SHE-TURTLE THIS MATING SEASON, FILLMORE?
SHOOT.
GO EASY ON THAT COLOGNE OF YOURS. IT'S OVERPOWERING.
BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN PUT ANY ON YET.
YOU MEAN, THAT'S FROM...
LAST YEAR'S APPLICATION?
GET ME A HIGH-PRESSURE HOSE.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DO YOU HOPE THIS BABY WILL BE A BOY, OR DO YOU HOPE IT WILL BE A GIRL?
I DON'T CARE.
REALLY?
I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT THIS TIME I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO PREFERENCE AT ALL...
...AS LONG AS HE'S HEALTHY.
AH-HA!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Willard Scott, Daniel J. Travanti, Paul Cattermole

Happy Birthday: You will have a greater interest in cultural trends this year. You will be drawn to courses offering different philosophies and humanitarian interests. You will have unusual experiences while traveling or attending seminars. Listen to what others have to say but make your own decisions. Your numbers are 3, 11, 19, 24, 33, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your emotions will be close to the surface today and you could find yourself in a compromising position. Work behind the scenes on your image.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If there is something that has been on your mind, do a little research at your local library or on the Internet. The knowledge you gain will lead to interesting connections.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Opportunities to make changes to your home or to invest in something that will make your place more comfortable should be looked into today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may be a little emotional today especially regarding matters that pertain to partnerships. Take a few steps back and think about your situation. Lighten up and look at the positive side.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put your attributes to work for you. Mingle with your peers and be prepared to make changes that will put you in a better position. Be a leader and you will be admired for you strength and courage.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't waste time trying to get everything done at home. Take up a new hobby or enjoy the company of friends but don't sit at home trying to fix something that is fruitless.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take time to do something nice for the people you live with or if you live alone spend time fixing up your residence in order to make it more comfortable for yourself. Invite friends over.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may not feel sociable today but you will have a unique way of explaining the way you feel to close friends and family. There will always be a solution to anything that you face.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Check out investments and listen to someone who has a great idea and wants you to join forces with him or her. Your business sense is good today.

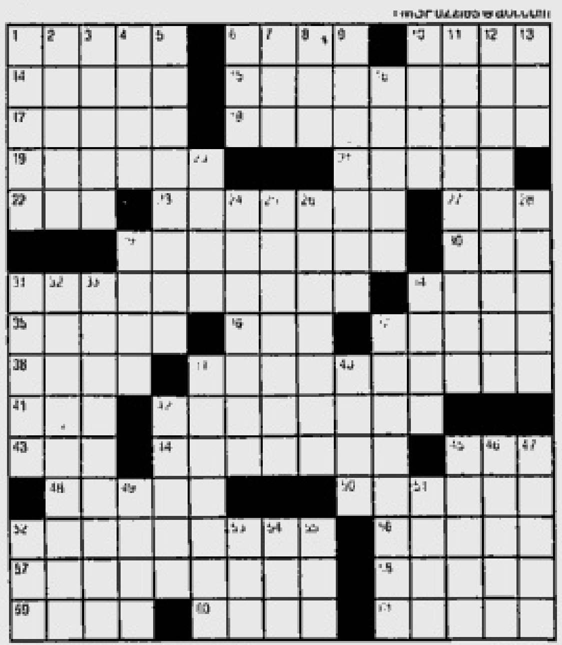
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a little time and think about the things that you would like to do in order to improve yourself or your surroundings. Be a little self-indulgent and do the things that make you happy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone you work with may be a little jealous of your insight and vision. Don't let that stop you from pushing forward. Don't get involved in secret activity and avoid people who insist on spreading rumors or gossip.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The more you do to help others the better your chance will be to meet someone special. Enjoy the involvement in groups that are trying to make a difference.

Birthday Baby: You have a vivid imagination and well-developed intuition. You will know what others are thinking instinctively. You are extremely creative in all that you do.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Arlan and Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL 1/19/02

ACROSS
1 Navajo dwelling
6 Royal address
10 8th-century English monk
14 Penetrating
15 Storage areas for electronic messages
17 "The Burden of Proof" author
18 Performs with restraint
19 Awkward
21 Steady starer
22 "__ Girl Friday"
23 Danger signal
27 Fond du __
29 Like some sabbaticals
30 Learning inst.
31 Film chronicle of William Wallace
34 Issue a ticket to
35 Actionable writing
36 Clumsy oaf
37 Blackthorns
38 Literary scraps
39 Hot air
41 Elec. switch in a car
42 Arboreal amphibian
43 Far out!
44 Sanction
45 "My country __ of thee..."
48 Natasha's cartoon cohort
50 Jenna Elfman role
52 Doggedly persistent
56 Author Asimov
57 Basic
58 Nicker
59 "Scientific American Frontiers" host
60 Attendee
61 Fence openings

DOWN
1 Down the __!
2 Round windows
3 Pundits
4 Bohr's object of study
5 Movie theater staple, once
6 Tex. campus
7 "At Seventeen" singer Janis
8 Exorcise
9 Grand
10 Ruth's husband
11 Packing material
12 Took away (from)
13 First of September?
16 Fort __, NC
20 Sure!
24 Idealist
25 '20s free spirit
26 Country music's Lynn
28 Game of kings
29 Montand or Saint Laurent
31 "The __ Witch Project"
32 Sound familiar
33 Ran out on
34 Bumpkin
37 Wrapping, as with bandages
39 Taking out
40 "__ Cassius has a lean and hungry look"
42 Doubly
45 Characteristic
46 Public persona
47 1966 literature Nobelist
49 Hindu hero
51 Out of port, but not wine
52 Hyson, e.g.
53 Ear: pref.
54 Abu Dhabi loc.
55 Camera letters

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

T	A	O	■	M	E	L	B	A	■	E	S	S	E	S
A	S	P	■	O	R	I	O	N	■	L	E	A	C	H
T	H	E	■	O	N	L	Y	T	I	M	E	Y	O	U
S	Y	N	C	■	E	A	S	E	D	■	D	E	L	L
■	■	E	A	R	S	■	■	■	I	B	E	R	I	A
C	A	N	N	O	T	A	F	F	O	R	D	■	■	■
E	L	D	O	N	■	N	O	L	T	E	■	C	P	A
S	T	E	E	D	■	N	N	E	■	S	W	O	O	N
S	O	D	■	E	L	U	D	E	■	C	A	N	O	N
■	■	■	F	A	I	L	U	R	E	I	S	T	H	E
R	E	C	O	U	P	■	■	■	R	A	T	E	■	■
E	R	O	S	■	P	A	P	E	R	■	E	S	T	E
L	A	S	T	T	I	M	E	Y	O	U	■	T	R	Y
E	S	T	E	E	■	A	L	E	R	T	■	E	E	R
T	E	A	R	Y	■	H	E	S	S	E	■	D	E	E

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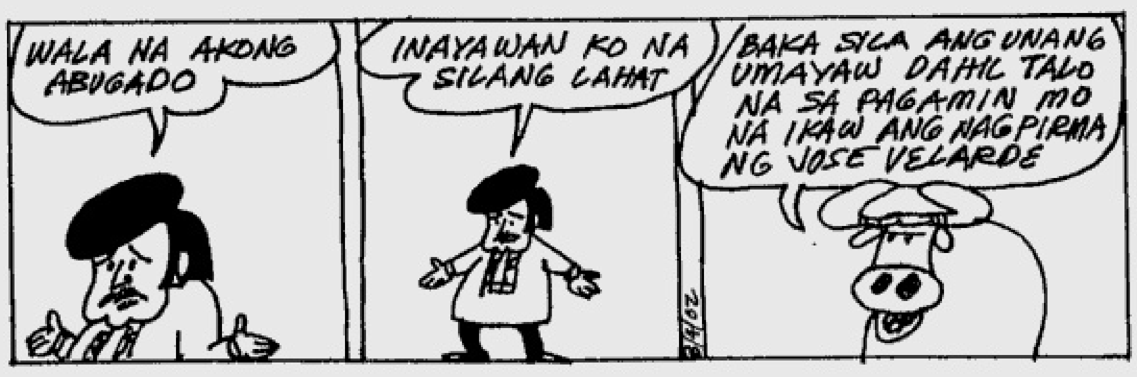
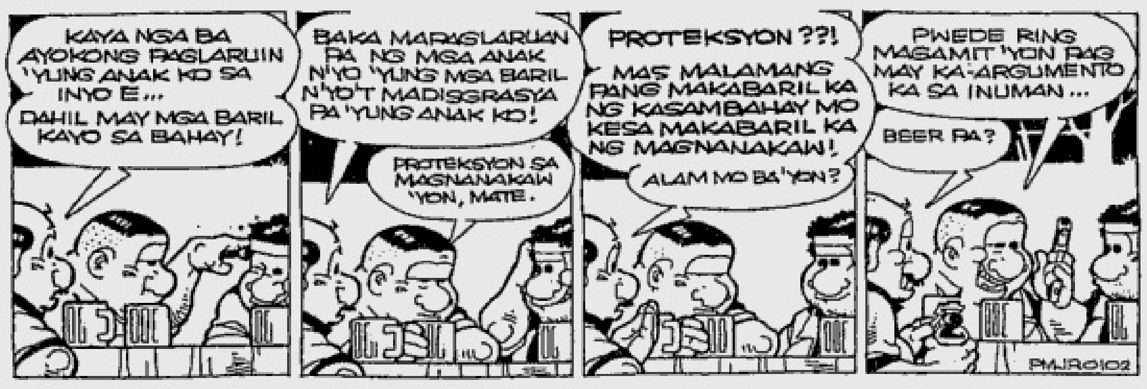
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WALA NA AKONG ABUGADO
INAYAWAN KO NA SILANG LAHAT
BAKA SILA ANG UNANG UMAYAW DAHIL TALO NA SA PAGAMIN MO NA IKAW ANG NAGPIRMA NG JOSE VELARDE

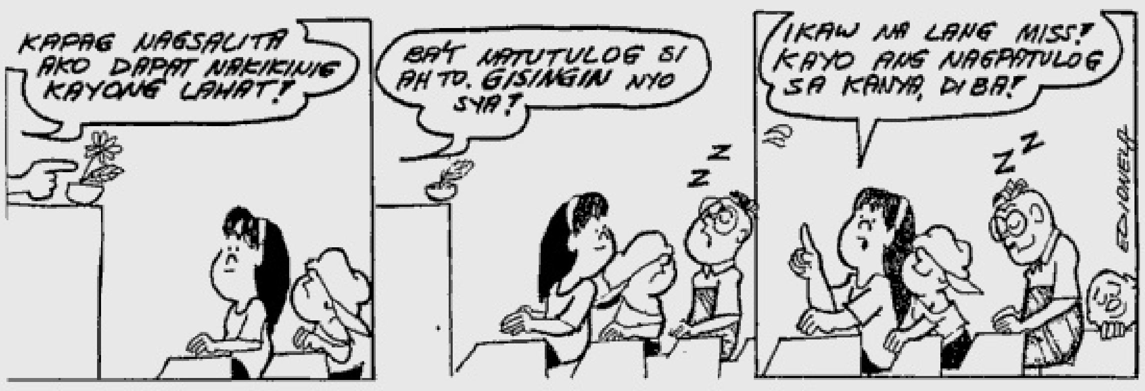
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAYA NGA BA AYOKONG PAGLARUIN 'YUNG ANAK KO SA INYO E...
DAHIL MAY MGA BARIL KAYO SA BAHAY!
BAKA MAPAGLARUAN PA NG MGA ANAK N'YO 'YUNG MGA BARIL N'YO'T MADISGRASYA PA 'YUNG ANAK KO!
PROTEKSYON SA MAGNANAKAW 'YON, MATE.
PROTEKSYON ??!
MAS MALAMANG PANG MAKABARIL KA NG KASAMBAHAY MO KESA MAKABARIL KA NG MAGNANAKAW!
ALAM MO BA'YON?
PWEDE RING MAGAMIT 'YON PAG MAY KA-ARGUMENTO KA SA INUMAN...
BEER PA?
PMJR0102

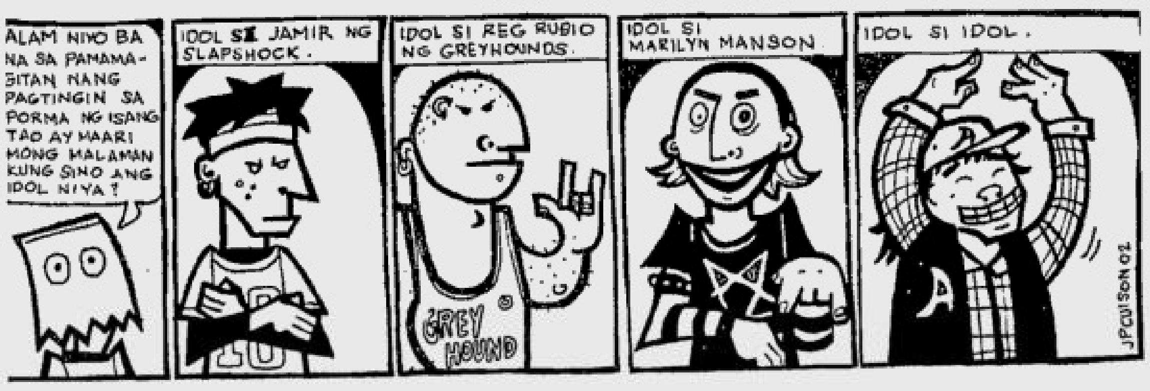
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


KAPAG NAGSALITA AKO DAPAT NAKIKINIG KAYONG LAHAT!
BA'T NATUTULOG SI AH TO. GISINGIN NYO SYA?
IKAW NA LANG MISS! KAYO ANG NAGPATULOG SA KANYA, DI BA!
EDIONELA

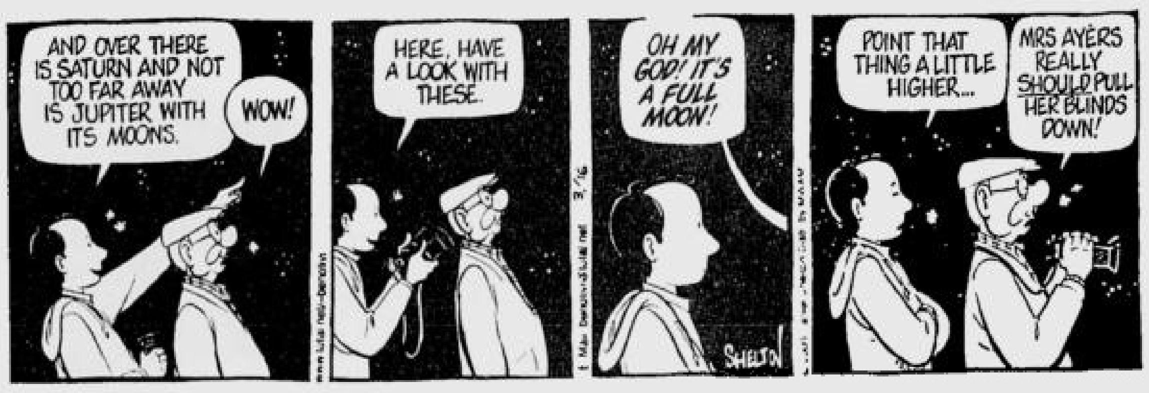
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


ALAM NIYO BA NA SA PAMAMAGITAN NANG PAGTINGIN SA PORMA NG ISANG TAO AY MAARI MONG MALAMAN KUNG SINO ANG IDOL NIYA?
IDOL SI JAMIR NG SLAPSHOCK.
IDOL SI REG RUBIO NG GREYHOUNDS.
IDOL SI MARILYN MANSON.
IDOL SI IDOL.
GREY HOUND
JPCUISON 02

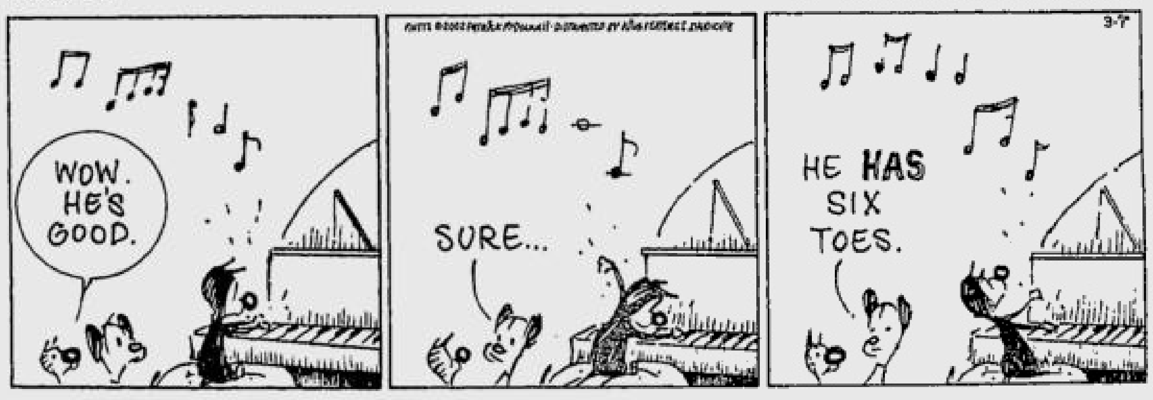
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AND OVER THERE IS SATURN AND NOT TOO FAR AWAY IS JUPITER WITH ITS MOONS.
WOW!
HERE, HAVE A LOOK WITH THESE.
OH MY GOD! IT'S A FULL MOON!
POINT THAT THING A LITTLE HIGHER...
MRS AYERS REALLY SHOULD PULL HER BLINDS DOWN!
SHELTON

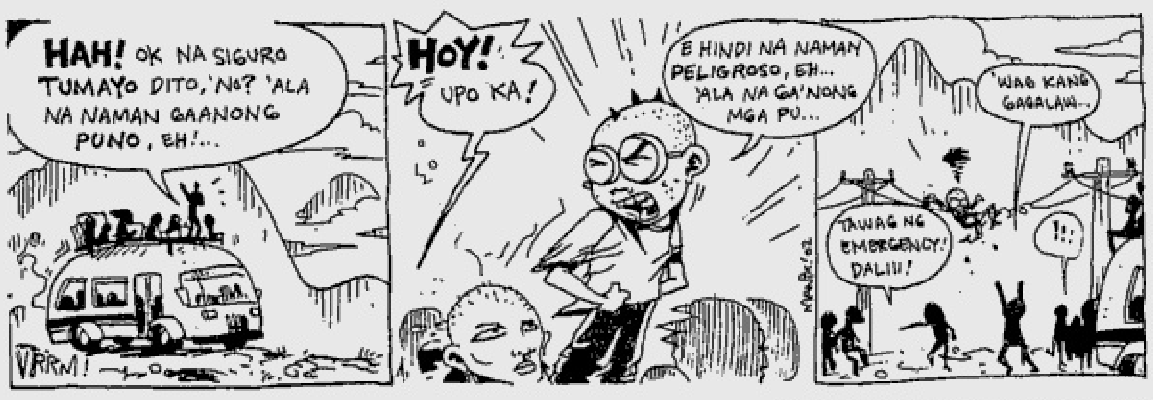
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WOW. HE'S GOOD.
SURE...
HE HAS SIX TOES.
3-7

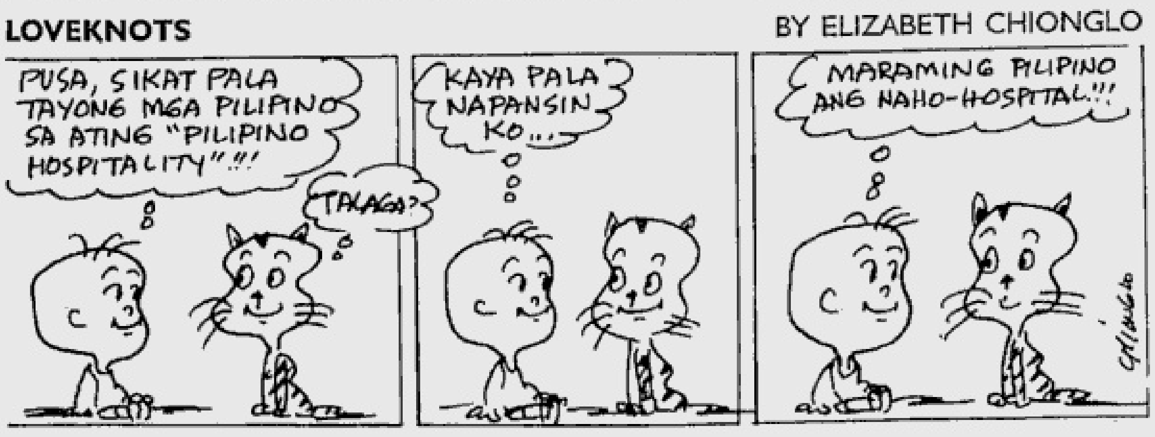
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAH! OK NA SIGURO TUMAYO DITO, 'NO? 'ALA NA NAMAN GAANONG PUNO, EH!...
VRRM!
HOY! UPO KA!
E HINDI NA NAMAN PELIGROSO, EH... 'ALA NA GA'NONG MGA PU...
TAWAG NG EMERGENCY! DALII!
'WAG KANG GAGALAW...
!!

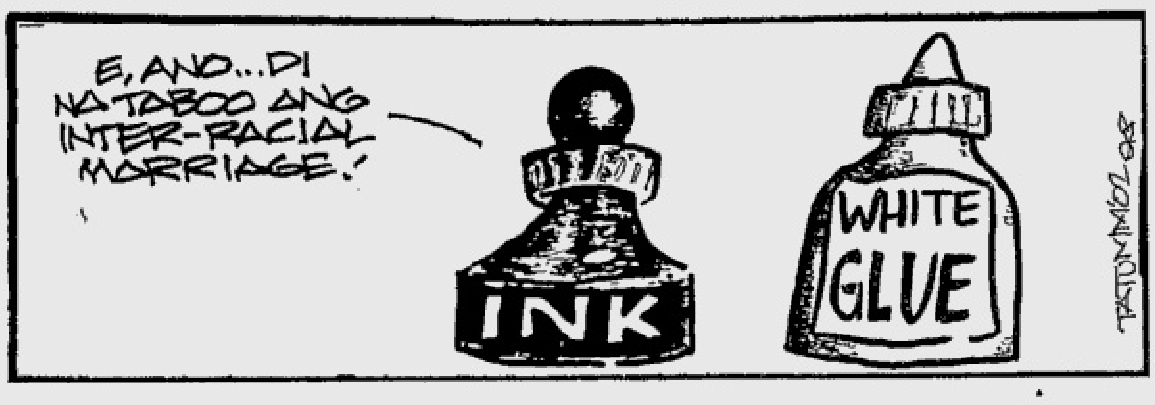
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, SIKAT PALA TAYONG MGA PILIPINO SA ATING "PILIPINO HOSPITALITY"!!!
TALAGA?
KAYA PALA NAPANSIN KO...
MARAMING PILIPINO ANG NAHO-HOSPITAL!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


E, ANO...DI NA TABOO ANG INTER-RACIAL MARRIAGE!
INK
WHITE GLUE
TATUMMIL02

50 years of traditional Spanish cooking

ALBA Restaurante Español, the home of traditional Spanish cooking, marks its 50th year in the country this year. Founded by Don Anastacio de Alba, the restaurant can be compared to wine, which only gets better as it ages. This is because Alba has history, it has *solera* (warmth and spirit), a rare quality in the restaurant scene.

As it celebrates five decades of serving the best Spanish dishes (think Paella Valenciana, Callos Madrileña, Lengua Sevillana, Cochinillo, Canonigo, homemade Jamon Serrano, *chorizos* and assorted *tapas*), Alba opened a branch on Tomas Morato Avenue, QC on March 2.

The new 100-seater branch delights guests with the same Alba dining experience—from the food to the ambiance and service, which its maiden restaurant offers in Makati. Its dishes are authentic and soulful, culled from Don Alba's original tried-and-tested recipes.

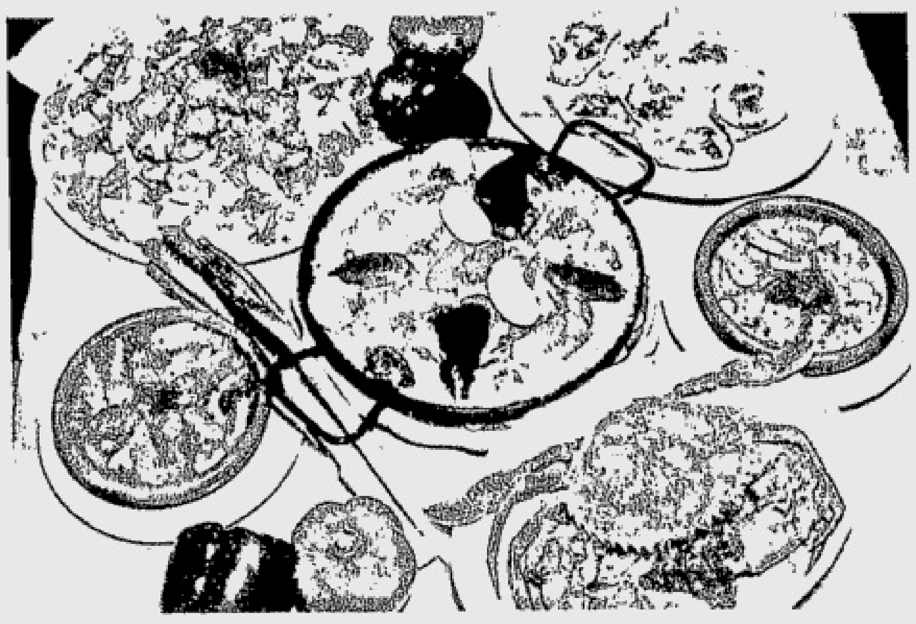
Memorabilia such as newspaper clippings and old restaurant menus greet guests at the entrance. The atmosphere is welcoming and rustic to give guests that comforting feeling. Walls are washed in salmon and mustard yellow with Spanish plates and posters as accents. The Avila Function Room, named after Avila from where Don Alba hails, boasts of a captivating mural of the town.

Don Alba, still cooking after all these years, is the culinary consultant and adviser, while his son Miguel (himself a chef) and his wife Cachelle manage the restaurant.

As if all his Spanish dishes were not enough, Don Alba introduces an array of delectable Spanish cakes and pastries (Tarta Al Cointreau, Tarta Chocolate Gran Dugue D'Alba, Ojaldritos, Almendrados) and a new dish, Pollo Serrano.

A lunch buffet (complete with *paella*, *cochinillo*, assorted *tapas*, *lengua*, seafood, meat dishes, desserts, salads) is served daily for only P350+. A trio of musicians will serenade guests in the evenings.

Catering and private functions are welcome. There's a deli counter where customers can order takeout deli items. Alba Restaurante Espanol is located at Tomas Morato Avenue corner Scout Lozano, QC (tel. 925-1912 or 411-7052). In Makati, Alba Restaurant is at 38 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati City (tel. 896-6950 to -51 or 890-4372).



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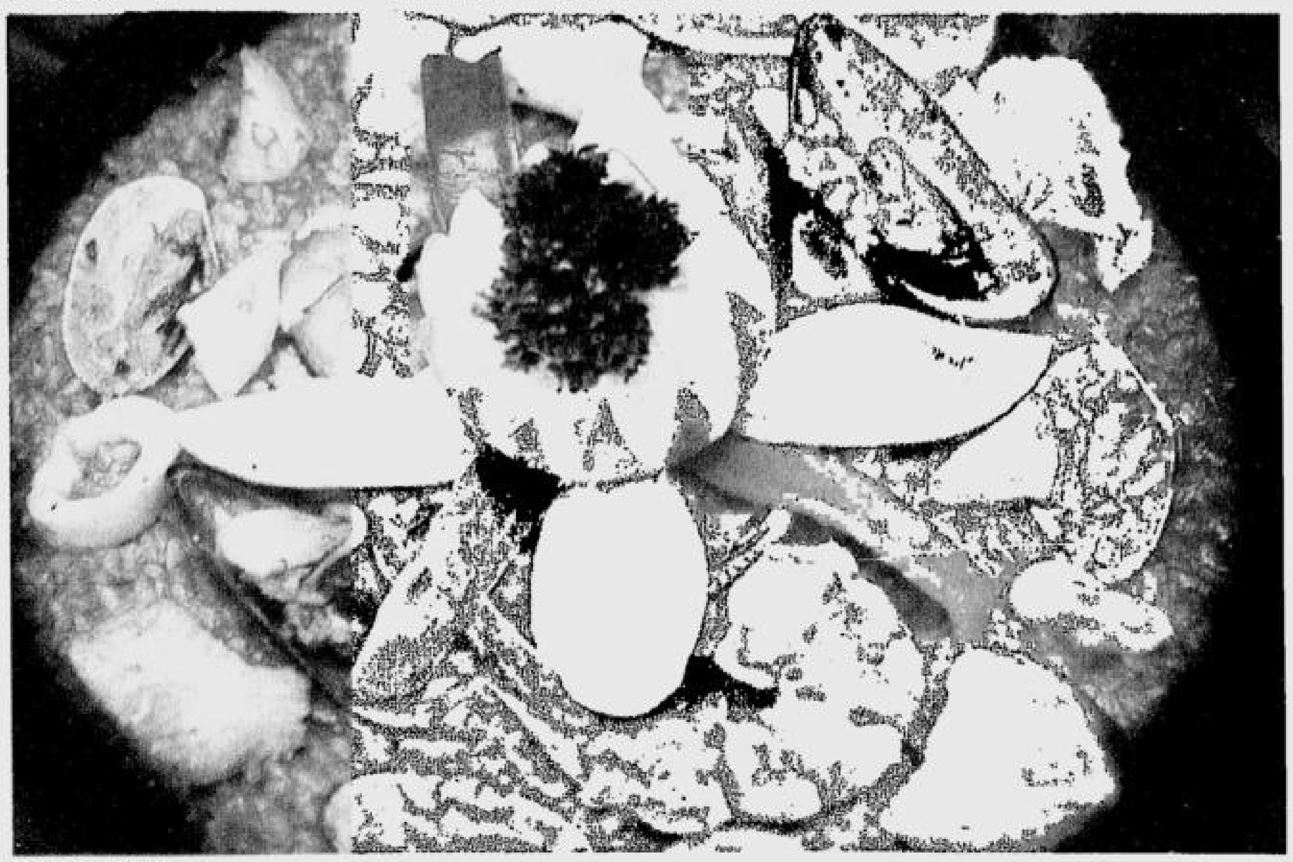


PAELLA Marinara

Spanish, French and Mediterranean dining on Libis

From page D1

though, and that was a challenge for me (with my arthritis and my cane). Chris says that what one says as one enters a restaurant is often predictive of one's appraisal of it. I said, "I made it!" and yes, it was worthwhile.

Traditional French, Spanish and Mediterranean cuisine is what the restaurant offers. It's not featuring fusion or trendiness, just steady tradition, although of course the chef's individual touches do transform traditional dishes. Chef Allan Mathay has trained at Cordon Bleu, the Peninsula and Toque. He has the physique one expects of a chef, and in fact reminds one of Robert Morley in the film "Who's Killing the Great Chefs of Europe?" His wife Cecile is the poetry chef.

A year old

On the February day we were there, Cená had just turned a year old, and Chris and his equally young partners (Allan Mathay, Eliza Antonino, Lovell Gopez, Mike de Villa, Johann Ramos, Paula Locsin and Ditrie Villacorta) were celebrating with a generous buffet of salad, salmon, roast beef and more.

Tony Lambino, who had invited me there, chose the.buffet, and had his fill of roast beef in any thickness, in any shade of done-ness. For me, soup fiend from youth, the Tomato Soup, with chunky bits of tomato, croutons and a chiffonade of basil. I have probably tasted most of the tomato soups in town, and this held its own with the best.

Others wanted Cream of Broccoli: chunks of broccoli with vintage Cheddar and Parmesan cheese, or Pumpkin Soup with streaks of parsley oil. Traditional French Onion Soup is listed, of course—the onions caramelized, the broth enriched with sherry wine, scented with thyme and flavored with Gruyere cheese. I think I will return for the Wild Mushroom Soup: shiitake mushrooms blended with cream. All the soups would make vegetarians happy.

The pasta sauces ranged from the simple Bolognese (meat sauce), Vongole (clams) and Carbonara (cream, bacon and mushrooms); to Sardina (Spanish sardines with black olives, sun-dried tomatoes, asparagus and garlic on angel hair pasta); Chorizo Castellano (diced Spanish *chorizo* sautéed in garlic and olive oil); a classic-with-a-twist Pesto with sun-dried tomatoes and Parma Ham and Smoked Salmon and Capers.

Chris recommended, and I had with pleasure, Pommery Scallops from Canada, with Pommery mustard sauce and wild rice risotto. A triumph. The seafood list includes Crispy Soft-Shell Crabs with mango and ginger salsa; Cream Dory Provençal; King Crab Than Long style (originally of Thai origin, now inexplicably found in many local Spanish restaurants); oven-baked Grouper (*lapu-lapu*) and Norwegian Salmon.

The meat and poultry list includes slow-roasted Cornish game hen (order eight hours in advance); Osso Bucco with bone marrow risotto; Duck Breast with Orange Jus; Lengua Sevillana; Beef Fondue; oven-baked lamb chops marinated in Dijon mustard, with rosemary sauce; Chicken Saltimbocca and Garlic Roast Chicken; and, of course, the prime meats: Black Angus Rib-Eye Steak and Prime Rib (70 oz; good for two).

Dozen desserts

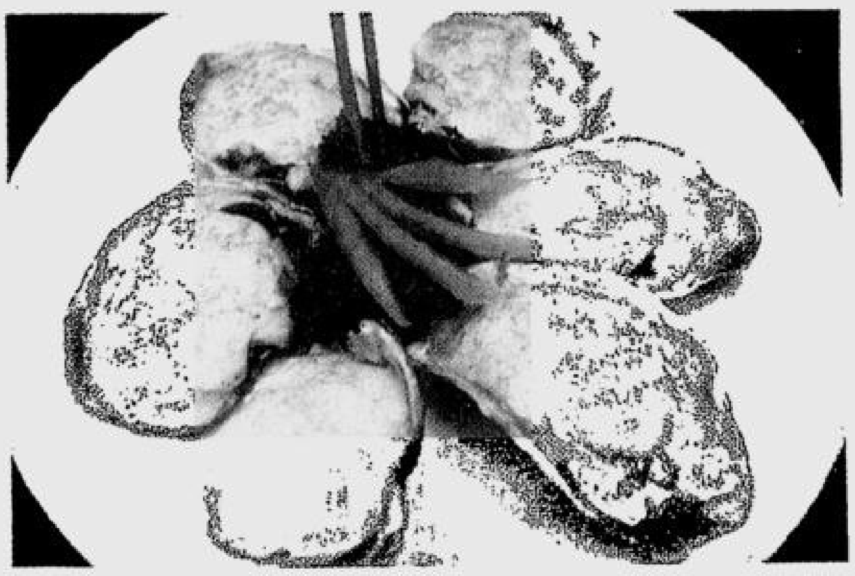
After all those hefty bites of classicism and tradition, only the devout usually choose desserts from the list of 12: Arctic Mud Pie (vanilla and mocha ice cream in Oreo crust): Margo Mascarpone: Tiramisu; Grand Marnier Panna Cotta, Apple Crisp with vanilla ice cream; Mango Cheesecake with mango purée, strawberry and blueberry sauce; Profiterole; Espresso Brulée.

Plus chocolate desserts to please devotees and recall Aztec feasting: Chocolate Lava Cake; Mudslide (chocolate sponge, dark chocolate mousse, white chocolate *ganache*); Decadent (chocolate cake with caramel sauce); and Chocolate Fondue of dark, milk or white Belgian chocolate with fresh fruits in season, chiffon cake and marshmallows.

After the meal, it was not difficult to go down 33 steps, ballasted by all that good food and pleasure.

The Libis row of restaurants is predominantly a young people's milieu—young owners, young concepts, trendy food. Chris says, however, that Cená will soon be opening Alabang and Greenbelt branches, and so their original idea of simple traditional grills in Spanish, French and Mediterranean modes will soon be entering the realms of the yuppie / adult/elite dining crowd. For a country with grave economic problems, we certainly are daring about dining.

ALLAN Mathay in his kitchen



OYSTER Rockefeller

MANGO Salad with Farmer's Cheese: mixed greens with mango vinaigrette topped with farmer's cheese and Parma ham

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120 exhibitors join food expo

THE FOOD and Beverage Engineering Expo 2001 held August last year at the SM Megatrade Halls gathered major industry players during the four-day exhibit.

Organized by the Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers-Manila Host Chapter and Fairs and More Inc., an affiliate of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., the expo is sponsored by Petron Gasul.

With its theme "Breaking Global Boundaries," the event will be held this year at the World Trade Center Metro Manila on June 16-19 with 120 exhibitors.

The Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Association, Hotel and Restaurant Purchasing Managers' Association, Philippine Chamber of Food Manufacturers, Philippine Retailers Association, Continental Associated Food Products Exports, Specialty Coffee of the Phils., Cocoa Foundation, American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Airconditioning Engineers, and the Integrated Food Manufacturers Association of the Phils. for Productivity also support the project.

Call 687-2955/0654, 845-1324, 759-6680 or e-mail mayose.cut@pacific.net.ph, egarcia@fairsandmore.com or visit www.foodandbeverageexpo. com.

Military says MILF chief back, ordered attacks

STORY ON PAGE A2

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **GMA lauds Davide as Filipino for all seasons** NEWS / A7
- **Ayala to sell stake in Makro, MRT** BUSINESS / B1
- **Filipinas live longer** NEWS / A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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US hostages shown on TV airing captors' grievances

A US Christian missionary couple held by Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan yesterday appeared on local television, saying their captors were targeting Western nations because of the alleged persecution of Muslims.

The brief footage aired by at least three television stations—ANC, GMA-7 and ABS-CBN—had hostage Martin

US HOSTAGES/A18

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Friday, March 8, 2002 ★ 78 pages / 7 sections / vol.17 / no. 90 P15 website: www.inq7.net

4 top leaders out to defuse Erap 'crisis'

By Rocky Nazareno and Juliet L. Javellana

FOUR senior political leaders met yesterday to find ways of getting the Sandiganbayan to allow ousted President Joseph Estrada to seek medical help abroad "without necessarily creating ripples of discontent or disagreement."

A Senate source said the leaders might also "ask Malacañang to intervene."

The meeting came as authors of the House resolution seeking to send Joseph Estrada into exile decided not to file it.

Speaker Jose de Venecia and former Senate Presidents Edgardo Angara, Blas Ople and Aquilino Pimentel agreed at the Manila Hotel "to adopt back-channel methods" to help avert a political crisis.

The crisis was spawned by Estrada's decision to dismiss his lawyers on Feb. 27 on the grounds that he could not get justice from the courts. Estrada, who is detained in a military hospital, is charged with plunder, a capital offense, and perjury.

Supporters of Estrada have warned of another uprising if the deposed President is barred from leaving abroad either for knee surgery or exile. The police have acknowledged that Estrada's supporters were mobilizing again.

At one time, a resolution in the House seeking Estrada's medical treatment in the United States gathered 136 signatures and its counterpart in the Senate, 19.

But many legislators began withdrawing their support from the resolutions after Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin described as "stupid" the proposal to allow Estrada to leave. More legislators withdrew their signatures after Estrada fired his lawyers, while Malacañang rejected sending Estrada into exile.

"There is a need for parliamentary diplomacy to help avert a gathering crisis as a result of incipient actions by various camps," said De Venecia, who

4 TOP/A6

Estrada suffers another legal blow for perjury

By Volt Contreras

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada suffered another blow at the Sandiganbayan yesterday, a week after dismissing his defense lawyers over his loss of faith in the justice system.

The anti-graft court's special division said Estrada must be tried for perjury for allegedly giving a false account of his assets in an official document.

The special division junked for lack of merit Estrada's Feb. 18 motion that sought to quash his second perjury case, paving the way for his arraignment on March 15.

Estrada had argued that the perjury charge exposed him to double jeopardy because the alleged offense was also an element of the more serious charge he

ESTRADA/A17

AP PAT ROQUE

TWO heavily armed US Special Forces soldiers stand guard (above)during the Basilan Day celebration. Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar laughs after placing a Yakan headgear on the head of Lt. Col. David Maxwell, commander of the US Special Forces.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SARANGANI INFORMATION OFFICE

TESSIE Pascua, a teacher, stands inside her house in Kiamba, Saranggani, which was badly damaged by Wednesday's earthquake.

I paid ₱1M, hostage tells lawmakers in joint hearing

By Rocky Nazareno and Carlito Pablo

SEN. Sergio Osmeña III yesterday produced an attaché case filled with bills and asked a witness whether it was similar to what she saw when the military supposedly accepted ransom payment for the release of a hostage of the Abu Sayyaf.

The witness, nurse Fe de Castro, said the attaché case she saw then was "really full." She added: "It was more than that. It was well stacked."

In response, Osmeña said the bills in the sample attaché case would amount to P5 million, "but another P1.5 million could fit in it."

The scene was yesterday's joint congressional hearing on the alleged connivance between the Abu Sayyaf and the military in the release in Lamitan, Basilan, of businessman Reghis Romero, his girlfriend Rissa Santos, and 8-year-old RJ Recio on June 2 last year.

The hearing went into executive (or closed-door) session later in the day, but not before a former hostage, Buddy Recio, testified that he had paid a P1-million ransom to the Abu Sayyaf for the release of his sister-in-law Angie Montealegre.

I PAID/A18

US Special Forces leader adopted as son of Basilan

ISABELA, Basilan—"We are all the sons of Basilan," US Special Forces Lt. Col. David Maxwell yesterday told hundreds of people gathered at the compound of the Basilan provincial capitol.

To loud cheers and applause, Maxwell donned the colorful Yakan tribal headgear to formally accept the title "adopted son" of the war-weary province.

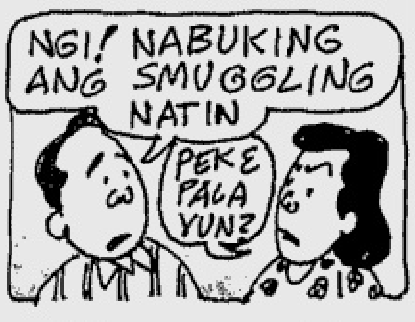
Battle-ready US Special Forces troops, some scanning the area with scopes, kept a security perimeter during the program marking the 28th anniversary of the founding of the island-province.

The conferment of the title on Maxwell was a highlight of the anniversary celebration, just two weeks after American troops arrived in Basilan.

Maxwell commands the 160 US Special Forces troops training Filipino soldiers in counter-terrorism.

The Special Forces are part of a 660-strong US contingent taking part in the ongoing joint Balikatan training exer-

US SPECIAL/A18



NGI! NABUKING ANG SMUGGLING NATIN
PEKE PALA YUN?

Pinoy couple in deep trouble over fake Guccis

TOKYO—A Filipino serviceman in the US Navy and his Filipino wife were given suspended jail terms yesterday for smuggling fake brand-name clothes into Japan via military mail.

The Yokohama District Court sentenced Petty Officer 1st Class

PINOY/A19

Lamitan folk honor Ediborah as a heroine

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LAMITAN, Basilan—The celebration here of International Women's Day today is focused on Ediborah Yap, the Filipino nurse taken by the Abu Sayyaf during the June 2 siege of this town and held hostage since.

"She deserves the recognition," parish priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda said of his friend since childhood. "She is a heroine as far as Lamitan residents are concerned."

Nacorda said that streamers extolling Yap's heroic concern for her fellow hostages would be displayed all over town, and that residents would say a "simple prayer" to further strengthen

LAMITAN/A19

'Worst over,' Mindanao folk told

"THE WORST is over," Raymundo Punongbayan, the government's chief volcanologist, yesterday said to allay fears of a volcanic eruption and a huge tidal wave following a strong earthquake in Central Mindanao.

Hundreds of villagers in Sarangani province have refused to return to their homes after hearing rumors that Mt. Parker, which lies near the quake's epicenter at the Cotabato Trench in Sultan Kudarat, might erupt.

Parts of the volcano's crater walls collapsed, releasing tons of water that washed away houses.

Punongbayan, however, dispelled fears that Mt. Parker would erupt as a result of Wednesday's quake that killed at least 15 people, wrecked dozens of wooden houses and forced more than 27,000 villagers to flee their homes.

Mt. Parker last erupted in 1640. In 1995, its water-filled caldera broke due to mine blasting, causing a flash flood that killed hundreds of residents along the Alah River.

WORST/A6

BILISAN NYO!

Second FRONT PAGE

MILF chief back, orders more attacks

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Muslim separatist guerrilla leader Salamat Hashim has returned to the Philippines from exile with orders to step up attacks against government targets, according to a military intelligence report obtained by Agence France Presse.

Hashim reportedly slipped into the southern Philippines from Saudi Arabia last week and ordered his Moro Islamic Liberation Front followers to launch attacks despite an earlier ceasefire agreement with the government, according to the report.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has shelved peace talks with the MILF after the group launched attacks against the military and civilians the past two weeks.

Manila also accused MILF forces of mounting the attacks to recapture some of the main camps the rebels had lost to a government offensive in 2000.

The chief government negotiator, Eduardo Ermita, said the two sides must first resolve issues relating to truce violations before Manila goes back to the bargaining table.

The military also accused the MILF of sheltering other Muslim armed groups engaged in kidnapping, like the Abu Sayyaf and the Pentagon gang.

Hashim was believed to have fled Mindanao two years ago at the height of the military offensive that captured most of the rebels' camps. The intelligence report did not say how he returned home.

The 57-year-old MILF chief has held several meetings with guerrilla leaders in the largely Muslim province of Maguindanao, the intelligence report said.

The 12,500-strong MILF has been waging a 24-year war to set up an independent Islamic state in the southern third of the mainly Roman Catholic Philippine archipelago.

Chief military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said that despite the suspension of the peace talks, the ceasefire with the MILF was still in effect and affirmed that the military would abide by any government decision to resume negotiations.

The MILF has been accused of sheltering the Abu Sayyaf, which is holding two American missionaries, Martin and Gracia Burnham, and a Filipino nurse hostage on the southern island of Basilan, and the Pentagon gang, that is holding an Italian Catholic priest, Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni, captive in central Mindanao. *AFP*

HASHIM

Peace talks off again

By Christine O. Avendaño and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE RESUMPTION of formal peace talks to end a Muslim separatist rebellion in the Philippines may be delayed to give both sides a chance to iron out thorny issues in backroom negotiations, officials said on Thursday.

Both sides signed a ceasefire agreement during talks last October but the truce was marred by sporadic fighting during the past two weeks, which had forced thousands of villagers to flee their homes.

The government pulled out of talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front because of its alleged links with the Abu Sayyaf, a source close to President Macapagal-Arroyo said.

"*Mukhang may* ties *sila sa* Abu Sayyaf so we would terminate the negotiations but continue with the back channels," the same source, who sought anonymity, said.

The back channel talks would be conducted with the help of Norwegian officials in Manila and Kuala Lumpur, the source added.

The other day, Eduardo Ermita, chief government peace negotiator, announced the temporary suspension of peace talks between the government and the MILF following charges the rebels had violated the ceasefire agreement with their attacks on the military and civilians in the past two weeks.

Ermita said that aside from the ceasefire violations, there were other reasons the government wanted to temporarily suspend the talks, but he did not elaborate.

The military has accused some MILF units of harboring members of the Abu Sayyaf terror group that has been holding two Americans and a Filipino hostage in Basilan for almost 10 months.

Reacting to reports that President Macapagal wanted the peace negotiations brought down to the level of "back channel talks," Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat said he hoped the talks would be "transparent."

"It should not be purely 'backdoor,' especially for the people of Mindanao who would like to know what is happening and what is being agreed upon," Lobregat said in an interview.

He agreed, however, the peace talks should only be resumed after the government had looked into the ceasefire violations by the rebel group.

Both sides said recently they hoped to resume talks either late this month or early in April, but chief Manila negotiator Jesus Dureza said on Thursday no new date has been set.

"We feel we can fast-track the peace process if there will be some back channel discussions before the formal talks are held," Dureza told Reuters by phone.

He dismissed local newspaper reports that President Macapagal was considering suspending negotiations.

"We are not cutting off the negotiations," Dureza said. *With AFP and Reuters reports*

DFA: RP-Taiwan jet deal won't affect China ties

A DEAL for the Philippines to buy surplus fighter jets from Taiwan will not affect Manila's relations with Taipei's fierce rival China, a senior diplomat said Thursday.

"Whatever the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Department of National Defense decides with Taiwan, the Department of Foreign Affairs will see to it that there will be no violation of the one-China policy," said Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja.

Baja said the acquisition of about 24 F5-E jets from Taiwan, currently under negotiation, would be a "commercial transaction" with no political overtones.

China, which regards Taiwan as a rebel province, insists on its diplomatic partners endorsing the "one-China" principle—that there is only one Chinese state, of which Taiwan is part.

The Philippines, like most of the world save for a handful of countries, recognizes Beijing rather than Taipei.

Vice chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, said Taiwan was offering the jets at a bargain price in exchange for concessions such as letting Taiwanese fighter pilots train in Philippine air space.

But Baja said this was unlikely to be granted as the Philippines would need to forge a diplomatic agreement with Taiwan.

Taiwan had been planning to scrap the outdated fighters, which were made under US license in the 1970s, as it is revamping its air force with US F-16s and French Mirage 2000-5s.

Despite their age, however, the single-seater F5-Es would still be a boon to the ill-equipped Philippine air force as it battles Abu Sayyaf Muslim rebels in a campaign backed by US special forces. *AFP*

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Proposal to put Congress under 1 roof revived

By C. Balana

THE SENATE has formed a committee that would pursue an old proposal to put the Senate and the House of Representatives under one roof.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said that upon his suggestion, the committee was formed to consider the construction of a Congress building on a 10-hectare site at Fort Bonifacio.

Senate President Franklin Drilon has designated Senators Edgardo Angara, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., John Osmeña and Pimentel as members of the committee.

Pimentel said that President Macapagal-Arroyo has already approved in principle his request to set aside an area within Fort Bonifacio for the Congress building complex.

Pimentel also said that the transfer of both houses of Congress to Fort Bonifacio, which he initiated when he was still Senate president, has bipartisan and bicameral support.

At present, the Senate is temporarily housed at the GSIS building at the CCP Complex on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

The House of Representatives is located at the Batasang Pambansa complex in Quezon City. Lawmakers had made several proposals to transfer Congress to one building but none of them prospered.

Pimentel said it was about time that a permanent Congress building should be built, being an independent branch of the government.

"As envisioned, the Congress building will capture the psyche of the Filipino by having an original architecture that will reflect the culture, tradition and aspirations of the Filipino race," Pimentel said.

According to Pimentel, the senators were looking forward to a place where they can no longer conduct public hearings and debates in a borrowed building.

While the House has its own building, Pimentel said that many congressmen have been complaining about its distance because of the long travel hours.

He said this might also explain the tardiness and absenteeism among congressmen.

According to Pimentel, a permanent Congress building will facilitate lawmaking and bicameral conferences, including consultation meetings, without too much hassle.

"Once the Senate and House have agreed on the exact location of the Congress building, the next step is for Malacañang and Congress to allocate funds for its construction, possibly under the 2003 national budget," he added.

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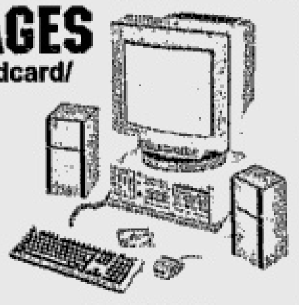
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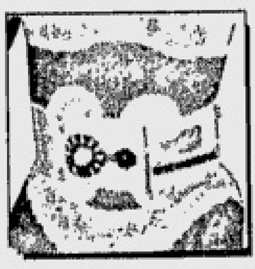
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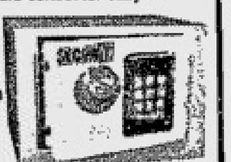
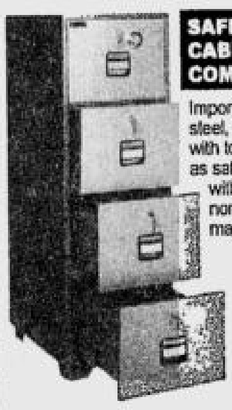
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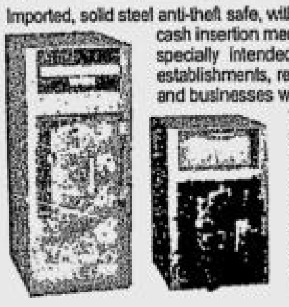
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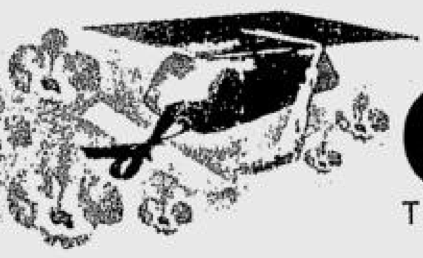
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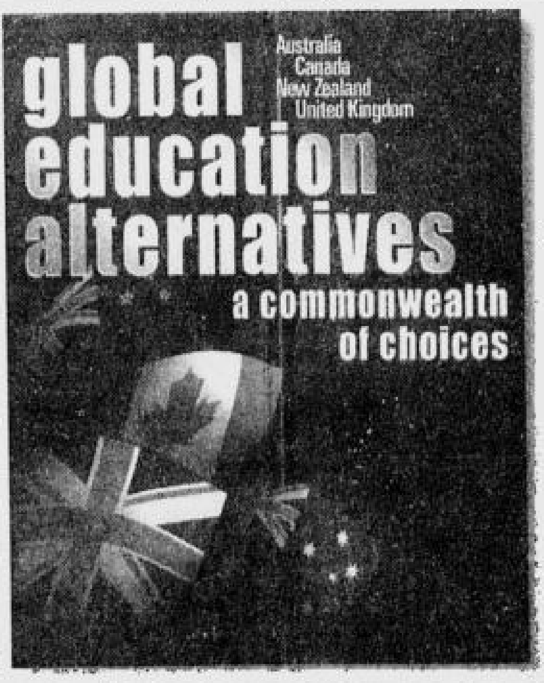

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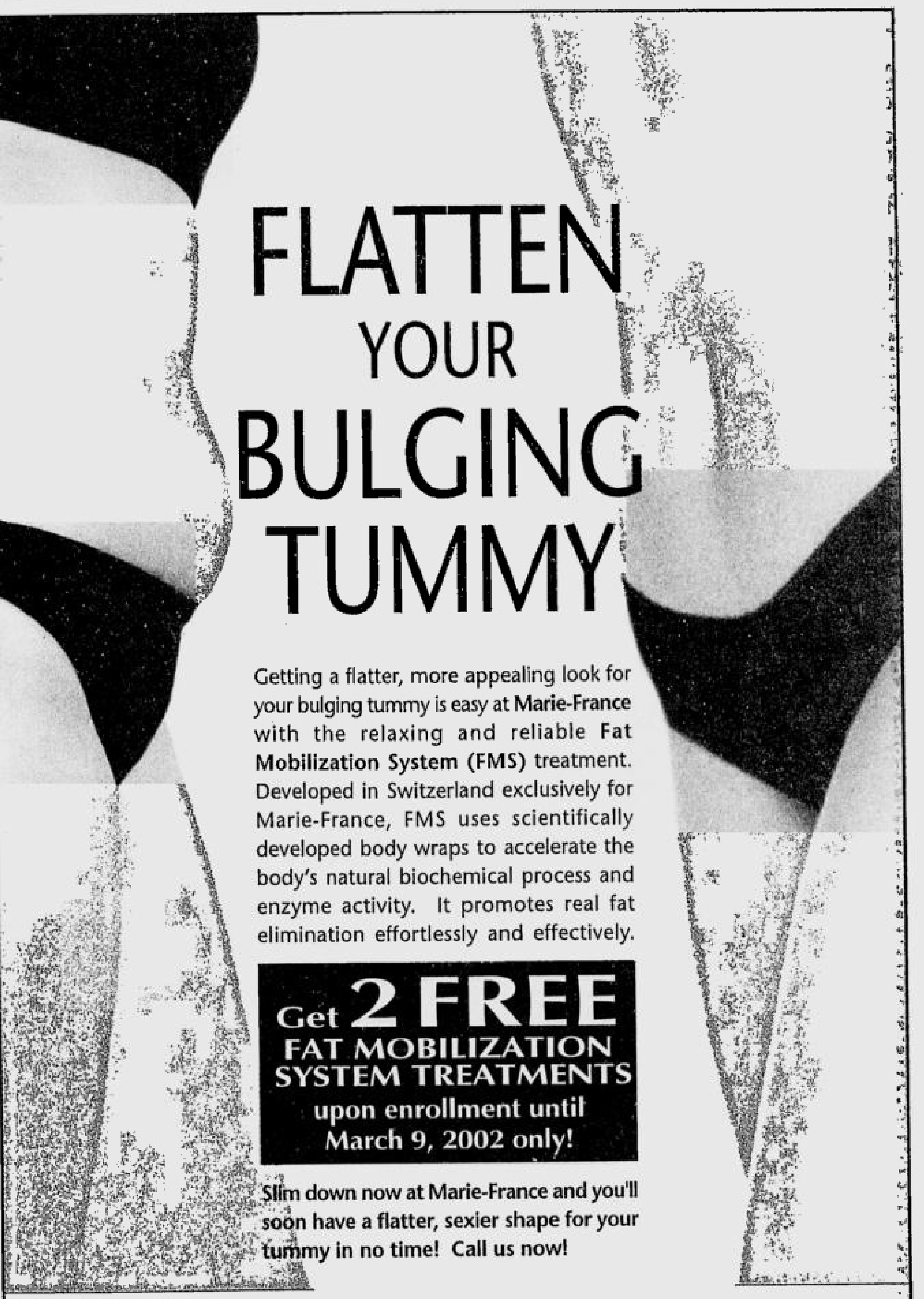
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Danding can still keep control of SMC

By Donna S. Cueto

EVEN if he loses, he wins.

San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco could still retain majority control of the country's biggest food conglomerate even if the Sandiganbayan rules that the contested coconut levy fund shares in SMC belong to the government, or the coconut farmers who actually paid for the shares.

This is because the Presidential Commission on Good Government said yesterday it would sell the government's shares in San Miguel Corp. "at the opportune time," should the courts finally decide ownership of the contested shares in its favor.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. said final determination of the ownership of the shares believed to worth almost P100 billion should be handed down by the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court by September.

But, Carranza admitted, the PCGG had not thought of the possibility that Cojuangco, who is contesting ownership of the shares with the PCGG, might end up buying the shares back if the court decides against him.

"That is something we have not discussed," Carranza said. "We haven't come to that point."

What the two parties had agreed on only so far as the shares are concerned were contained in an interim agreement signed by PCGG chair Haydee Yorac and Cojuangco on Feb. 22, copies of which were released only yesterday by the PCGG.

In the agreement, the PCGG and Cojuangco maintained both groups were aiming for the "maximization of shareholder value, the preservation of SMC's corporate assets and good corporate governance" at SMC.

While the agreement said the litigation of at least three civil cases against Cojuangco involving companies belonging to the coco fund would continue, it did not bar Cojuangco from buying back the SMC shares after the court's decision.

Provision 1.1 of the interim agreement reads: "Government states its policy that at the opportune time, it intends to sell the SMC shares (should) the courts decide by final judgment as belonging to it in ownership."

Carranza said he would bring up the matter with Yorac.

The Supreme Court ruled in December that the coconut levy funds were "prima facie" (apparently) public funds, in its decision in the United Coconut Planters Bank case, another entity in which coco levy funds was invested.

It then directed the Sandiganbayan to "decide with finality" the three civil cases against Cojuangco within six months.

The interim agreement would be in effect for two years, or until Feb. 21, 2004. But its term could be cut short, depending on how long it would take the court to finally resolve the cases, or when the Coconut Industry Investment Fund, owner of the contested stocks in SMC, disposes of its shares—whichever comes first.

Palace to scrap anti-smuggling body; Customs to do the job

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG will soon abolish the anti-smuggling task force of the National Anti-Crime Commission.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said she wants to give Antonio Bernardo, the newly appointed Customs chief, a free hand to deal with smugglers.

"I hope Tony Bernardo will be able to clean up the (Bureau of) Customs," she told reporters Wednesday.

"So I think I am going to tell the NACC that probably they can fold up this anti-smuggling task force and give Bernardo a chance to do his reforms," she added.

Ms Macapagal said she was particularly keen on stopping rice smuggling.

Bernardo will take over the helm of the bureau from outgoing Commissioner Titus Villanueva upon the latter's retirement next week.

Villanueva, in a press statement, reported on Wednesday that the customs bureau had surpassed its assigned collection target for January and February by 0.8 percent or P110 million. He said this was on track with the overall target of P115.126 billion for the year 2002.

The outgoing commissioner said that the agency had collected some P14.487 billion against a target of P14.377 billion for the two month period.

He said these figures do not include the Tax Expenditure Fund (TEF), which are the taxes and duties payable by the government and government-owned or -controlled corporations to the customs bureau.

Villanueva said that while he is set to retire on Wednesday, it was his duty to leave the Bureau of Customs in tip-top condition even up to his last hours in office.

He is scheduled to officially turn over the reins of the BOC to Bernardo on Thursday in a simple ceremony at the customs head office at the South Harbor.

He said that he is happy to leave the bureau in the hands of a young, energetic and a highly competent person.

Bernardo, who is currently an undersecretary in the Department of Finance, is a consistent top performer during his days in the academe. He finished his law degree at the Ateneo Law School and placed second in the bar exam.

Gloria off the air, but not for long

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will not be off the air for long, after all.

Her media planners have already come up with a replacement for the weekly program "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo."

The President axed the show last Saturday, its 19th episode, due to poor ratings and the inconvenience on her part.

The new program will start airing on Monday.

It will still be a weekly program, but it will only be aired on radio.

"May Gloria ang Bukas Mo" was aired on television and radio.

As the President wanted, the new program will run for just 30 minutes, from 7:30 to 8 a.m.

Ms Macapagal had complained that the one-and-a-half-hour long "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo" was too long.

Press Undersecretary for broadcast Manuel Sanchez said they have yet to decide on the title.

"The format will be very simple," he said.

"The President will make an opening statement in the first two minutes. After that there will be a question and answer portion," he added.

He said anchors of different radio stations will be hooked up so they can take turns interviewing the President.

But the radio networks will take turns "hosting" the program.

For the launching on Monday, Sanchez said the President has invited anchors from major radio stations to join her for breakfast an hour before the start of the program.

Ms Macapagal earlier admitted that her program lost to children's shows like "Batibot."

A former full-time housewife and mother of three, the President said children and their mothers understandably prefer "Batibot" over a talk show on a Saturday morning. "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo," the brainchild of her personal publicist, Dante Ang, ran for five months.

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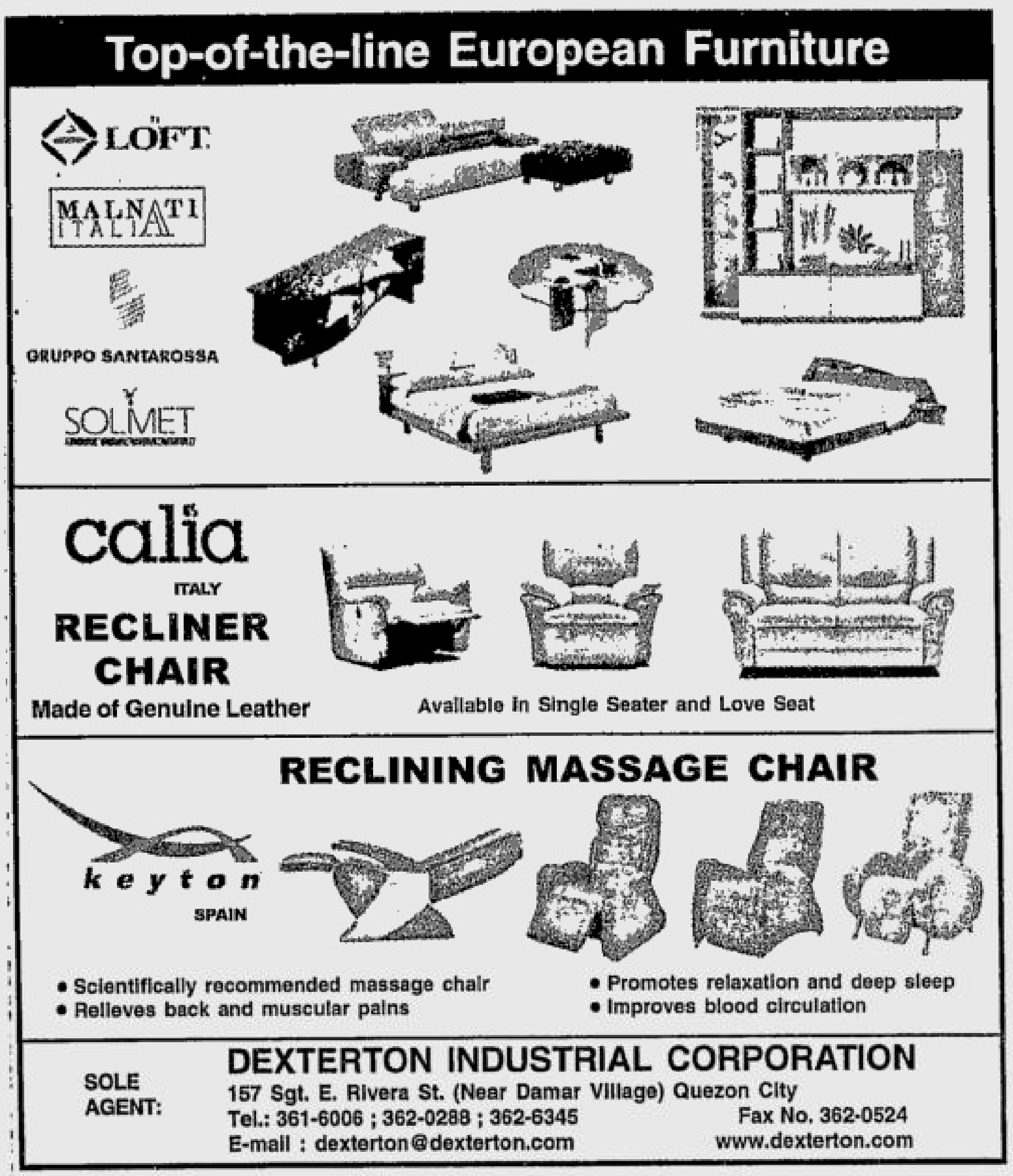

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TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon presents a poster of the Banaue Rice Terraces during the Second Tourism Industries Related Congress at the PICC.

LGUs asked to take active role in tourism

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon has urged local governments all over the country and the tourism industry to achieve what he called the 3 As for tourism development. These are to attract, assure and be accountable.

Gordon made the call as governors and mayors joined the Department of Tourism and the travel trade to chart ways to pursue tourism development and generate more jobs in the countryside.

Some 700 delegates attended the 2nd Tourism Industries Related Congress (Tricon) at the PICC, which focused on the vital role of LGUs in making tourism work as a primary engine of economic development, a tourism department press statement said yesterday.

In his opening address, Gordon said local destinations can attract the tourism market by forming and marketing tour packages. He added they could also bring in the warm bodies by assuring them of value-for-money, efficient and prompt service as well as of safe and pleasurable stay in our islands.

It is also important, he said, that people in the tourism industry know the value of being accountable in their profession so that there would be constant efforts at improvement in all aspects of tourism.

Accountability, he said, also includes fair and standard pricing, provision of committed services, caring for the environment and the upkeep of peace and order in the communities.

The tourism chief also presented new promotional materials under the WOW Philippines campaign, including its "More Than the Usual" ads targeting the global media in preparation for the Visit Philippines 2003.

The LGUs were asked to check out what their localities' overseas competitors are doing to make their promotions more effective. "Boracay should know what Guam is doing. Cebu must measure up against Phuket. Palawan should probably look at development in Maldives," he said.

The secretary noted that the island destination Phuket in Thailand has 9,000 rooms available against Cebu's 900. It has 17 direct flights from Japan while Cebu has three.

Alejandra Clemente, president of the Federation of Tourism Industries of the Philippines, said the federation would continue to work with the Department of Tourism in the promotion of programs such as the WOW Philippines, Volunteer 12 and the Visit Philippines 2003.

Clemente recalled Secretary Gordon's directive for the private sector to unite and form an umbrella organization. Since last year, she said, the FTIP has figured prominently in the campaign to seek the lifting of the Japanese travel advisory against the Philippines, which resulted in the downgrading of the travel advisory covering Cebu, Bohol, Samar and Masbate.

She said she was confident the two million tourist arrival mark can be regained.

RP bans fishmeal imports from Japan

THE PHILIPPINES said yesterday it has temporarily banned Japanese fishmeal imports due to fears it may contain meat-and-bone meal from cows infected with mad cow disease.

Agricultural officials said there was no record of any imports of Japanese fishmeal so far this year or during 2001, so the ban was a precaution against potential imports.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor ordered the confiscation to be effective from Feb. 20.

Montemayor said the ban follows Japan's advisory last month banning the use of fishmeal in the production of compound feed for cattle due to its meat-and-bone meal content.

The Philippines has restricted the import of beef and meat-and-bone meal from Japan since September due to an outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease, in that country.

Last month, Japan's Agriculture Ministry said it was investigating meat-and-bone meal imported from Italy before June 1998 as one of the suspected sources of mad cow disease in Japan.

Investigators have long since linked the disease to meat-and-bone meal made from the bones and body parts of infected cows.

British scientists discovered the disease in 1986 and linked this a decade later to the variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a fatal brain affliction believed to have killed about 100 people in Europe.

Latest data from the Department of Agriculture showed the Philippines imported 133,108 tons of fishmeal between January and October 2001, mostly from Peru, Chile, China and New Zealand. *Reuters*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, March 8, 2002
3rd Week of Lent
1st Reading: **Hos 14:2-10**
Gospel: **Mk 12:28-34**

One of the teachers of the Law came up to Jesus and asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?"

Jesus answered, "The first is: *Hear, Israel! The Lord, our God, is One Lord; and you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.* And after this comes another one: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* There is no commandment greater than these two."

The teacher of the Law said to him, "Well spoken, Master; you are right when you say that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all our heart, with all our understanding and with all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves is more important than any burnt offering or sacrifice."

Jesus approved this answer and said, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Commentary

The Golden Rule, the foundation of civilization. Whatever you would want to be done to you in any situation, do the same to your neighbor. Jesus taught that love means laying down one's life for each other. He also said that his yoke is sweet and his burden light, once we shoulder it—meaning that it can be done, this challenge that he puts before us. Through Him, with Him and in Him we are empowered to love God and neighbor with the whole heart, soul, mind and strength of Christ Jesus. "It is no longer I who live, but Christ in me. I now live my mortal life through faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Gal 2:19-20) An invitation to a prayer of wonder and amazement at the gift of identification with Christ.

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CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Evident premeditation—Evident premeditation was not established because the prosecution presented no evidence to prove (1) the time when the offender determined to commit the crime; (2) an act manifestly indicating that the offender had clung to his determination; and (3) a sufficient lapse of time between the determination to commit the crime and the execution thereof, to allow the offender to reflect on the consequence of his act. Indeed, it was established that the killing of the victim resulted from an argument between him and accused-appellant minutes prior to the attack. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Iglesia, G.R. No. 132354, September 13, 2001]

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4 top leaders out to defuse Erap 'crisis'

From page A1

was designated by the group to take the lead in promoting the "healing process" between Malacañang and the Estrada camp.

De Venecia said the meeting was an "informal initiative (on their part) to see how we can help both sides resolve the crisis."

Ople told Senate reporters that the group "agreed to explore parliamentary diplomacy to facilitate the healing process."

He said the group agreed that "some form of parliamentary diplomacy might be required to conciliate differences at the political level between Malacañang and Estrada."

Senate President Franklin Drilon was invited to the meeting at the Manila Hotel but failed to attend.

Ople refused to discuss the details of the reconciliation initiative because of "the sensitive issues involved."

Angara said he and Pimentel would later get in touch with their colleagues to "finalize the proposal and put the package before decision makers."

Avoid public debate

"Back channeling would avoid public debate which, if allowed, would be the surest way to kill a good idea," Angara said.

Ople said he would encourage "constructive political dialogues" among colleagues.

In the House of Representatives, Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon said he and eight co-authors of the resolution seeking to send Estrada into exile abandoned the move "in deference" to Estrada's refusal to be an exile.

Macarambon denied he was pressured by Malacañang and House officials into withdrawing the resolution authored by pro-administration congressmen.

"The consensus was that if we pushed this option despite Estrada's objection, it could have very bad political implications," Macarambon said.

He made the statement after consulting Representatives Gregorio Ipong and Conrado Estrella II of the Nationalist People's Coalition, Romualdo Vicencio and Antonio Floirendo Jr. of the ruling Lakas, Harlin Abayon and Joey Hizon of the Liberal Party and Wilfrido Villarama of Aksyon Demokratiko.

Hours earlier, Abayon said he no longer wanted to become a coauthor of the resolution because Estrada's letter rejecting exile rendered it moot and academic. But an opposition leader said Estrada told him last week that he preferred exile.

Before Macarambon announced the withdrawal of the resolution, Villarama stood by the resolution despite Estrada's letter to Macarambon.

Villarama said he would push for the filing of the resolution because it would enable the government to deal with the Estrada problem.

"The resolution was for (the President) so that she will have a way of getting rid of the Erap problem," he said.

Villarama said he proposed that the title of the resolution be amended to make it acceptable.

The original draft stated that it was a resolution "strongly urging (Ms Macapagal) to send (Estrada) to transitory exile pending the restoration of political stability and full economic recovery."

Villarama said the title was amended to one asking the President to "study the option" of exiling Estrada to preserve political stability.

Get him out

"The message there is to get him out because he's a problem," he said.

There were earlier moves to replace Macarambon's resolution with another coming from the ranks of the opposition because it had placed the ruling coalition in a bind.

Opposition Rep. Rolex Suplico admitted he was asked to sponsor the resolution but said he was prevailed upon by Minority Leader Carlos Padilla not to accept the offer.

"This is an administration move but we in the opposition will get the flak. So he said 'let it come from the administration,'" Suplico said.

While the proposal to exile Estrada appears dead in the House, moves to allow him to have his knee surgery abroad are still in the works.

Medical treatment is exile

An opposition congressman, who declined to be named, however, admitted that medical treatment was "just a code for exile."

Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, secretary general of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, said the LDP would push for Estrada's medical treatment but not exile.

Aquino said the LDP would recommend it to the political summit scheduled for May 3 to 5. "Medical treatment yes, exile no," he said.

The summit, organized by De Venecia, will be attended by 10 major political parties.

After a pre-summit meeting with party leaders on Wednesday, De Venecia announced that Estrada's exile would be taken up at the sidelines of the summit.

No to power grab

During the pre-summit meeting, De Venecia said the parties also agreed to reject any attempt to destabilize the government or grab power by launching a coup.

"We are sending a powerful message that our political parties in the Philippines will not countenance such moves because we have to ensure the political integrity of our Republic," De Venecia told reporters.

He said the statement from the political parties was important due to reports of destabilization.

"We want to put an end to these recurring reports of movements or attempts at mutiny or destabilization," De Venecia said.

The parties, which made the commitment, were the ruling Lakas, the Nacionalista Party, the Liberal Party, the PDP-Laban, the PDSP, the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, Reporma and the Nationalist People's Coalition.

"For the first time these parties got together," De Venecia said, adding that he would meet with all regional parties next week.

De Venecia said the Partido ng Masang Pilipino of Estrada sat down yesterday as observer.

'Worst over,' Mindanao folk told

From page A1

"They will be shaken a little bit by the aftershocks but no big one that will (cause) tsunami (tidal waves), no big one that will cause buildings to collapse," he said.

Most of the deaths were caused by falling debris but also included four cases of heart attacks at the height of the tremor.

The quake, which measured 6.8 on the Richter Scale, toppled two old churches, ripped cracks in buildings and caused the seas off some coastal towns in Mindanao to swell by three meter.

"Nothing to worry about," Punongbayan said, adding that residents "should be ordered to go back to their homes."

The civil defense office in Manila reported that 27,609 people had fled their homes, including more than 26,000 from the coastal town of Kiamba, 75 km from the epicenter.

"They expected that a tsunami would follow. Fortunately for us the water was not that high, but a precautionary evacuation was undertaken," said Melchor Rosales of the civil defense office in Quezon City.

Disaster officials in Sarangani and South Cotabato placed at P16.5 million the estimated damage to commercial establishments, infrastructure and residential houses caused by the strong earthquake.

Bella Lechonsito, social welfare officer and chair of the disaster coordinating council in South Cotabato, placed at P10 million the estimated cost of damage in eight affected towns.

In Sarangani, Hermelo Latoja, provincial social welfare officer and PDCC chair, estimated the damage at P6.5 million.

In Maitum, also in Sarangani, the damage was placed at P1.5 million.

Arthur Rudes, a resident, told the INQUIRER that Barangay Mabay became a ghost village when residents ran to higher ground after the earthquake.

Rudes said some of the 100 evacuees still refused to return to their homes after hearing rumors that volcanoes nearby would erupt. *Reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Reuters, AP and AFP*

QUAKE cracks concrete pavement in Saranggani. RYAN LIM

RYAN LIM

JORDAN Mandal shows heavily bandaged right foot injured during the earthquake.

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Gloria calls Davide Filipino for all seasons

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday extolled Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. as "a Filipino for all seasons" as she defended him against charges hurled by deposed President Joseph Estrada.

President Macapagal also said that Davide, named by the INQUIRER as its Filipino of the Year for 2000, deserves to be remembered for the heroism he has displayed throughout his career.

It was Davide who presided over the impeachment trial of Estrada in 2000 and later administered the oath of Ms Macapagal as the country's new President on Jan. 20, 2001, capping the Edsa II people power revolt, which ousted Estrada.

"I would like to congratulate Chief Justice Davide for being a Filipino for all seasons," Ms Macapagal said in a speech during the 50th founding anniversary of the Lyceum University in Manila.

Davide led awardees who were conferred the Dr. Jose P. Laurel Award, which was named after the Laurel family patriarch.

President Macapagal said the award to Davide was timely and appropriate in the face of accusations leveled against him by the deposed leader.

"It's a reminder that despite criticisms, heroism is not forgotten and it can shine like a star to serve as inspiration for the next generation," Ms Macapagal said.

The former President had accused Davide of having conspired with forces, which caused his ouster, first by administering Ms Macapagal's oath, and second, through the Supreme Court's decision recognizing the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

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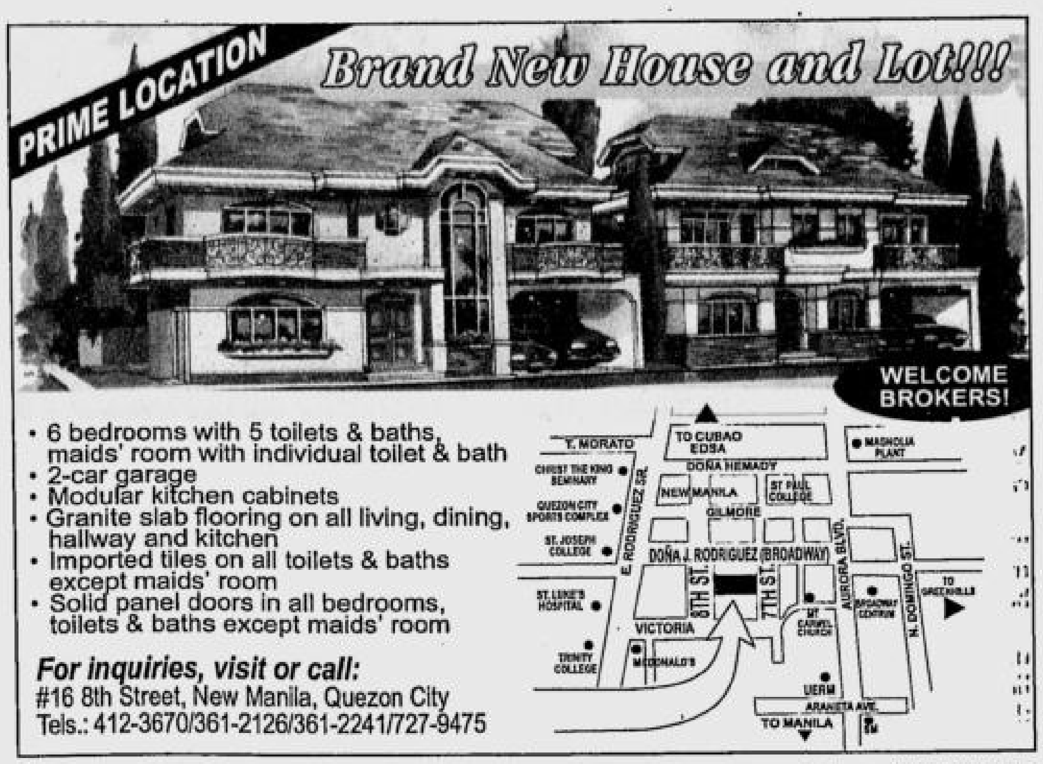

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Roco shuns luxury cars, flies instead

By Donna S. Cueto

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco has shunned the use of luxury vehicles for his travels here, but he has found a better and faster way to visit schools in the provinces—by helicopter.

His two-day use of a twin-engine helicopter to visit the sites of school buildings in the northern regions of Luzon last October cost the Department of Education P217,292.25, based on documents obtained by the INQUIRER.

This is now being questioned by employees of the DepEd led by its union.

DepEd employees have also been holding rallies every Thursday since Feb. 14 against Roco, citing his expensive use of private choppers and his alleged "reign of terror" at the education department.

DepEd union president Jose Cusi Jr., said many DepEd employees complain of Roco's "temper."

"He is very hotheaded and impulsive," Cusi said.

Among the many concerns of education employees criticizing Roco was his use of choppers on Oct. 10 and 11 last year.

Roco used an AS-355N Ecureuil twin engine helicopter, rented from Cebu Pacific, in connection with the inspection of school building sites in Northern Luzon regions.

DepEd employees said that Roco could have just used the DepEd service vehicles for his travels, or could have just traveled by land to save on money.

One of Roco's staffers, Elvie Liwanag, confirmed that Roco had indeed used a helicopter to visit TEEP projects.

Filipinas now live longer, get better education

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

FILIPINO women are living longer, more of them are able to finish college, their numbers are increasing in the judiciary and in elective positions in government.

These were some of the findings culled by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) from available government statistics as contained in its "State of Filipino Women Report 2001" due to be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo in Women's Day celebrations today.

"Filipino women registered gains in the areas of health, education and politics, but poverty, limited economic options and violence against women remain issues to contend with," said Jurgette Honculada, NCRFW commissioner.

Honculada read part of the report in the Women's Month Pre-Summit Workshop organized by the Kaibigan ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (KGMA) at the Quezon City Sports Club. Results of the workshop shall be submitted as a proposal to the President in a summit on March 21.

Based on data from the National Statistics Office, the life expectancy of Filipino women increased from 71 years in 1998 to 71.9 years in 2001, or a difference of around 10 months and 24 days.

While more males are enrolled in elementary school levels than females, more women stay on to finish college, the NCRFW report said. Statistics from the education department showed 48.9 percent of elementary school pupils are females, but at the college level, women comprise 51.8 percent of students. In high school, 53.4 percent are female.

In politics and governance, the NCRFW noted that while there are fewer women senators now than in 1998 (7.7 percent compared to 16.7 percent), there was an increase in the number of women elected congresswomen, governors, vice governors, board members, mayors, vice mayors, and councilors in the 2001 elections.

The marked increase was in the number of congresswomen, from 9.62 percent in 1998 to 16.7 percent in the present Congress. The number of women governors also increased 19.5 percent to 16.7 percent; mayors from 14.9 percent to 15.6 percent; and councilors from 16.6 percent to 17.4 percent.

Honculada said there was also an increase in the number of women judges in the Court of Appeals, the regional trial courts, and in the metropolitan and municipal trial courts.

Supreme Court data showed 21.4 percent of incumbent judges in Philippine courts are women, compared to 18.1 percent in 1999.

"Under GMA, women fared well in health, education, and politics," Honculada said.

Despite these rosy figures, Aurora Javate-De Dios, NCRFW chair, lamented that the fractious political climate last year, the peace and order situation in Basilan and the continuing economic crisis, have drawn government's attention from the often overlooked issues that concern women.

"It is for these reasons that we have to intensify our information campaign on the situation of our women experiencing poverty, violence in the home and in the community," De Dios said in a statement.

Around 300 women representatives from 12 sectors in 17 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila yesterday gathered at the Quezon City Sports Club for the Women's Month Pre-Summit Workshop to discuss current situation of women in their localities, particularly in the aspect livelihood.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 16 No. 90
ISSN 0116-2642

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
▪ Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
▪ P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
▪ Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
▪ Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 ▪ Advertising 897-4807
▪ Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
100% soy ink

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
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The wrong war?

EDITORIAL

FOREIGN journalists covering the Balikatan war exercises in Basilan have been wondering aloud if the US Special Forces are not fighting the wrong war.

Time magazine's Anthony Spaeth, for instance, reported recently that while the Abu Sayyaf is known to have had strong ties to al-Qaida in the mid-1990s, such links seem to have "atrophied" since then. Thus, while a victory over the Abu Sayyaf will be good for Philippine internal security, it is likely to have "little impact on eradicating global terrorism."

The "real terrorist threat," according to Spaeth, comes from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front which has "much fresher links" to the international terrorist network of Osama bin Laden. He said there is evidence that two Palestinians and a Jordanian arrested last November are part of an al-Qaida cell and have had frequent contacts with the MILF. The separatist group is also believed to have played host to hundreds of Islamic fighters from the Middle East, Pakistan, Indonesia and Malaysia.

This theme of the MILF being the real terrorist and the "real challenge" to the war on terrorism also runs through the reports filed by New York Times correspondent Nicholas Kristof. In one article, Kristof even accused President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of having hoodwinked US President George W. Bush into fighting the Abu Sayyaf instead of the MILF, which has "much stronger ties to terrorism." He surmised that the reason is that Bush's real aim is not to eliminate a real threat but to "demonstrate momentum in the war on terror" by picking an enemy that can be "quickly beaten." What the United States wants is "a feel-good declaration of victory more than a defeat of terrorism," he concluded.

This is a very unflattering portrait of the only remaining superpower and its leader who has vowed to crush international terrorism and made it the overriding goal of his administration. But don't expect the Macapagal administration or the Armed Forces of the Philippines to lift a finger to help disabuse the media of this notion.

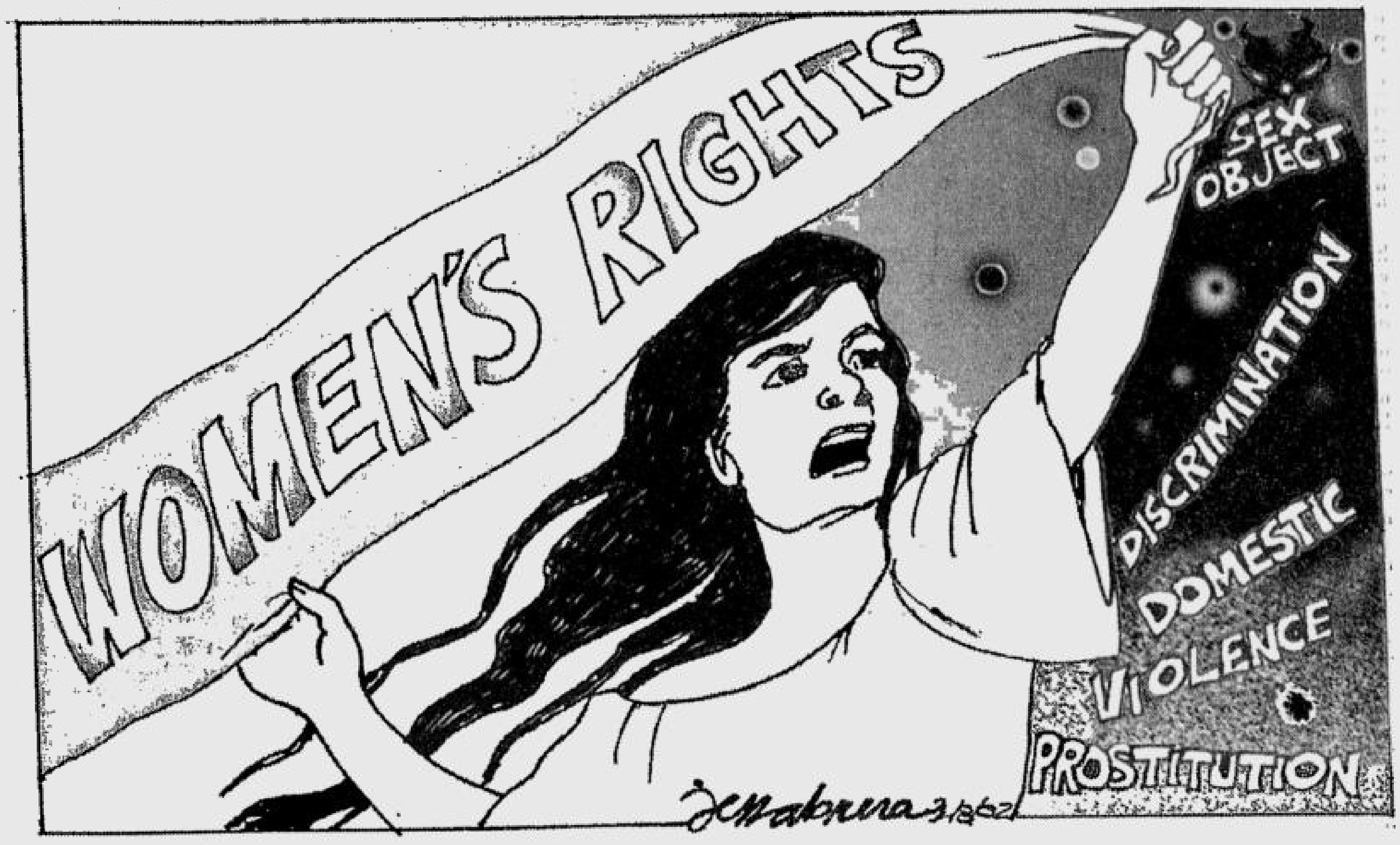
To the AFP, which has been humiliated by its failure to deliver the deathblow to the separatist movement in Southern Philippines, nothing would be more welcome than getting American troops to fight the MILF. To the administration, this may not be a realistic option for the moment, but even just the possibility that the United States can be persuaded to expand its operations and take on the MILF strengthens its hand when dealing with the separatist guerrillas.

Better trained and better equipped government troops facing one less enemy (assuming the Abu Sayyaf is wiped out) are going to be a more formidable foe to the MILF and other rebel groups. What more US troops fighting alongside the AFP? The Vietnam War may provide an inspiration to rebels, but facing American soldiers with their sophisticated weaponry is not something guerrillas of any stripe look forward to.

No wonder Philippine military spokespersons have stepped up their efforts to link the MILF to the Abu Sayyaf and al-Qaida. One official was quoted as saying that the Abu Sayyaf and the MILF are one and the same. AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan has accused the MILF of not only blocking efforts to rescue the two American missionaries and a Filipino nurse being held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf but also providing sanctuary to the bandits. The MILF also had a hand in some of the Abu Sayyaf's raids, he said.

Now even government peace negotiators seem to be playing hardball. On Wednesday, the presidential adviser on the peace process, Eduardo Ermita, announced that the government was temporarily suspending peace talks with the MILF which were earlier scheduled to resume on March 9 in Kuala Lumpur. Ermita said there was need to clear the air of charges and countercharges from both sides about violations of the ceasefire agreement. The military has accused the MILF of engaging government forces in 14 clashes, staging two ambuscades and 10 other cases of violence in a span of two weeks. Adan said these incidents were initiated by the MILF to gain leverage in the talks.

If this were so, then MILF leaders must have lost their capacity to look any further than their gun sights. For no matter how they look at it, the government has gained a stronger hand in recent months. The only problem is that the government may not be playing its cards right. By pushing the MILF to the wall, it may be squandering the opportunity to win a lasting peace.



Remembrance of things past

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE PHILETS Foundation, an association of alumni of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Sto. Tomas, gave a testimonial dinner last March 2 for two of its members in the foreign service, Ambassador to Hungary and former Standard publisher Andy del Rosario and Ambassador Sonia Cataumbay-Brady. As chair of the foundation, I have been asked: Why are you honoring alumni in other fields instead of journalists and writers when the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters trains future journalists and writers? The answer is that Philippine journalism is so full of Philets that if we gave awards to outstanding Philets journalists, we may have to give awards to a third of all Filipino journalists. Besides, Philets are already expected to excel in that field; they were trained for it. So we decided to honor Philets who have excelled in other fields. Isn't it much more difficult to succeed in a field for which you were not trained?

The Philets Foundation, by the way, helps individuals, communities, whole barangays through scholarships, setting up community libraries, seminars and financial assistance during emergencies, from funds donated by its members.

Although it is one of the oldest faculties (or college, to distinguish it from "faculty" meaning teacher) of UST, Philets is the smallest in terms of number of students, usually only one class per year. So practically all Philets know one another, from freshman to senior, and from one graduating class to another since many of them end up working together in journalism and related fields such as public relations, advertising and creative writing. So all Philets alumni, regardless of batch, are close to one another. Total strangers can introduce themselves to other Philets with the magic words "I'm a Philet" and that's enough to break the ice and to welcome them into the fold of the small and exclusive group. "Exclusive" because the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters is now extinct (it has been replaced by the College of Arts and Letters, or Artlets), so no new Philets alumni are being added.

Because of the "philosophy" and "writing" components of the Philets, its students were considered "eggheads" and were looked upon with awe by the students of other colleges. For some reason, the most beautiful coeds were concentrated in Philets. You can put a sign in the Philets corridors proclaiming that "through these corridors walked the most beautiful coeds in UST" and you would not be telling a lie. One of the most pleasurable pastimes of male Philets students was girl-watching. They would stand in the corridor or sit on the wide windowsills and watch the parade of beautiful girls pass by. Sometimes, boys from the other colleges visit the Philets corridors on one pretext or another just to join in this pleasurable pastime.

This did not end after graduation. When the Philets girls joined the newspapers, the pleasure is transferred to the male editors and staffers. When I transferred from the Manila Chronicle to the Evening News years ago, it was not only for the promotion and higher pay offered. The real reason was the all-girl desk of the Evening News, almost all of whom were Philets graduates: Julie Yap, Carmen Hernandez, Maymuna Cabili, Flora Zaide, Bobbie Malay, the only UP graduate, and Minnie Montemayor. They were all young, all very beautiful, all talented—and all single. It was the closest thing to heaven on earth as one can get. I was the slot man (or news editor) of the desk, and they all sat around me in the U-shaped desk and were at my beck and call.

Of course, my girlfriend, also a Philet, got worried and asked that we get married. My plan for myself then was not to get married before age 26. I was only 20 then but I loved her so much that I chucked all my well-laid plans and we got married—secretly—and I had to get my father's signature on the marriage documents because I was underage.

Having an all-girl desk did wonders to the eagerness to work of the male staffers. I was in the newsroom at 8 a.m. and did not leave until evening. The next morning, I was raring to go again.

As an afternoon paper, the Evening News reporters did not have to go to the newsroom to write their stories as reporters of the morning papers then did. For lack of time, they dictated their stories by phone on the run to the girls. Nevertheless, they all reported to the newsroom in the afternoon, after the paper is closed. I don't have to tell you why.

The late Pat Gonzales, who later became Bulletin publisher and my best friend and *compadre*, was then still a proofreader in the Evening News, and he contrived reasons to leave the hot composing room and go to the air-conditioned newsroom to ask the desk many questions. After the paper was put to bed, he would come in again and ask to be taught how to copyread and edit stories. Again, this was just a ploy to be able to spend time with the girls.

When I was asked to be the managing editor of the Daily Express—then still being organized by veteran editors of the Manila Times, the Daily Mirror and the Graphic—I was also lucky. The most beautiful girls of Philippine journalism at that time were to be concentrated in the Express (the all-girl desk of the Evening News was disbanded). Lily Lim, Millet Martinez, Emily Marcelo, Yvonne Chua, Corito Fiel, Monica Feria, Rose de la Cruz, and many others whose names I have forgotten but not their beauty. They were not all Philets this time; a number of them came from UP.

When I organized the weekend magazine of the Express, a young, pretty aspiring writer—the granddaughter of my newswriting professor Joe Bautista and now one of the directors of the Express—applied for a job. She was as good as hired but because I was so busy with many things, I forgot all about her. So she went to television instead and later entered politics. She became a senator.

Her name: Loren Legarda.

Silent terror

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'VE gotten several messages on the e-mail about it, but nothing has driven home the point more than the images on TV. Images of sere earth, dotted only by tufts of obstinate weeds, cracked in many parts, the small crevices yawning as far as the eye can see. Those pictures were taken in the south several years ago, during the height of a particularly ferocious drought. One that lasted longer than any farmer could remember, and left scores dead from hunger or poisoning.

The poisoning came from men, women and children foraging in the wilds, or what was left of them, and eating a root crop called *kayos*. Most of these men, women and children were indigenous folk, who drew a livelihood from farming and raising animals. The ferocity of the drought was such that, as one lumad girl described it, the banana fruit that still clung to banana trees withered at the touch. Quite literally: they crumbled in the hands, and fell away through the fingers like dust. The animals died. With no food to eat, scores searched the forest for food, and ate whatever root crops and berries they could find, chief of them *kayos*, which was not unlike wild *camote*. Some of the crops were poisonous, however, and took lives, particularly those of children.

The warnings are dire. The images above are bound to haunt the nation again, and soon. After several years of wetness, when we were beset by unusual amounts of rain, destroying crops and flooding places, we're back to facing a long period of dryness. After years of La Niña, we're back to facing El Niño, such providential names for such unprovidential fits of Nature. At the very least, says Pagasa, we're facing half a year of drought. That may be an optimistic estimate, given the experience of the past.

It's one very messed up world we live in, the effects of Nature gone berserk being evident everywhere. That was what many of the delegates were talking about in a conference in Ecuador that I went to last year. Lush places that hadn't known drought had been visited by drought, and arid lands that had not known rain had suddenly been battered by typhoons. Farmers no longer knew how to predict the weather, and were relying, as their predecessors did in less scientific times, in the efficacy of prayer.

The cries and lamentations can be heard from Europe to Africa, from Latin America to Asia. A couple of years ago, I saw a footage on TV of hurricanes lashing at several Caribbean countries, tearing out houses and even buildings from their roots. If a huge fire had suddenly engulfed their community, one tearful woman said, it could not have left a bigger swath of destruction. The calamity came without warning. That part of the world was home to rain and wind, but never of that scale.

Fortunately, we are warned. But which is why I do not know why we are not looking at the warnings with a sense of urgency, if not alarm. It is not as though we lack for experience to show the depth and range of the ravage. It's Mindanao again that's predicted to bear the brunt of the new onslaught of dryness, a place that has been sorely tried of late. There is something almost Biblical about it. Joseph had only the gift of dreams, but at least had the foresight to counsel Pharaoh to build granaries during the seven years of plenty to see them through the seven years of want. We have the gift of satellite, and other sophisticated weather tracking devices. Heaven help us if we should not prepare for the interminable days of want.

As far as I can recall, the drought that drove the lumads to seek *kayos* in the wilds left more dead in several months than the Abu Sayyaf has done in its entire career. The deaths are quieter, there are no pictures of heads being severed from bodies and lying on the road, playing host to flies and maggots. But deaths are deaths, and fill people with grief, whatever their cause, when they strike a loved one. It's a silent terror, hunger, or the ravage threatened by furious Nature, and I don't know that it isn't the one thing worth being more scared about.

Of course we should do something about the Abu Sayyaf. Though, to repeat, that is not an argument for bringing foreign troops in. The principle is basic. It's not a matter of pride, it's a matter of survival. We cannot arrest kidnappers, who masquerade as political dissidents, we have no business claiming to be a nation. We should annex ourselves to the United States, or whatever self-respecting nation will take us in.

But for the same reason that we must do something about the Abu Sayyaf, we must do something about the impending outbreak of El Niño, whose effects, if environmentalists and weather watchers are to be believed, are going to be worse than the Abu Sayyaf. Lives are at stake, a foreigner argued in defense of sending US troops to fight the Abu Sayyaf. Well, even more lives are at stake here, even if they are not foreign nationals or better-off Filipinos. Lumads count too in the scheme of morality, if not in the scheme of politics.

Even now, we should start stockpiling the rice and other relief goods that will be needed during the height of the calamity. Better still, even now we should start bringing together the government agencies and leaders of the areas to be affected to draft contingency plans. This is a war, with an enemy no less fierce for not advertising itself. There are no Balikatan exercises we may hold to prepare for the real battle. And victory here will not take on the dramatic aspect of hostages being freed while fire burns in the background and the bad guys are strewn on the ground. That victory, when it comes, will not hog headlines and come with pictures.

But it will be a victory nonetheless. Keeping people alive normally is.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Foundations for real political parties first

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

WITH DUE respect to Speaker Jose de Venecia's good intentions, his bill seeking to reduce corruption in the electoral system through state financing of political parties is an idea for which the political foundation does not exist.

The bill aims to reduce what he calls "unhealthy dependence on interest groups" for election campaign financing. De Venecia cites the fact that in many democracies including those in Europe, the United Kingdom, the United States and in East Asia, public financing for political parties, in various forms, is widely practiced.

I cannot disagree with his argument on "unhealthy dependence on interest groups" (we all know fat campaign donors extract concessions from presidents they helped win), nor can it be disputed that the practice is widespread in many modern democracies. De Venecia can even cite working models of state financing—such as those in Germany and to a lesser extent, in the United Kingdom.

Our problem however stems from (1) sources of money for party financing; and (2) the party structure does not exist. The bill seeks to raise the money from two sources:

(1) Assignment by an individual or corporate taxpayer of a portion of his yearly tax payment to the political party of preference. Campaign contributions may nót exceed P5,000 for the individual taxpayer and P100,000 for the corporate taxpayer. Donors will be entitled to tax breaks.

(2) Outright grant from the national budget.

The bill estimates the campaign financing program to cost around P3.5 billion a year, with P2.5 billion to be subsidized from a special fund. In practice, more money is spent by presidential candidates for their campaigns than the estimates of the bill. Public financing, the bill argues, would not only reduce corruption arising from paybacks to campaign contributors, but also level the election playing field, make the parties more competitive and mold the parties into vehicles offering alternative public policies rather than a cavalcade of show-biz personalities.

Raising money, especially the budgetary component, should be a problem. But the parties are the fundamental problem. In the present Congress, there are 15 parties, none of which has a majority. These parties, except some in the party list, are not differentiated by policy or ideology. In the bill, a political party will qualify for budget financing if its national candidates had received at least 15 percent of the popular vote in the last general elections. It may be true that entitlement to the subsidy is an incentive for parties to merge, but merger of parties does not necessarily lead to party policy definition. A subsidy therefore does not help in the formation of parties with alternative programs and policies.

To my mind, the subsidy plan puts the cart before the horse. In the countries cited by De Venecia which provide party financing in one form or another, the financing came after—not before—the establishment of parties with well-defined policies and ideology. Until this structure is established in the Philippines, the state would be subsidizing not parties but personalities.

Since democratic elections were introduced in the country in the early 1900s, financing has always come from private donors. During the more stable years of the two-party system, campaign contributions flowed to either the party and the individual candidate or to both. When the two-party system—composed of the Nacionalista and Liberal parties—was demolished by martial law, nothing replaced these parties during the Marcos dictatorship, which formed a monolithic party, the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, and even during the democratic restoration periods of Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos. During Joseph Estrada's short-lived presidency, parties were even less important to him. He rode to the presidency on the back of personal popularity, not on a party machine. Campaign contributions did not flow to the party; it flowed to him. As for senatorial, congressional and municipal candidates, money was donated not to the party but to the candidates.

Since there was no party structure, organization and even permanent headquarters, there was no party accountability of monies donated to candidates. The candidates themselves did not consider these donations as contributions to the party. They pocketed the money, and part of which that was not spent during the election campaign, was appropriated as personal funds.

There was no reason for the candidates to account for the donations. What passed for parties did not aggregate or articulate special interests. The present parties are not vehicles for articulation of interests. One academic has observed that after the demolition of the two-party system by Marcos, political and economic change have dislocated the constituency upon which a stable party can be built. Even though we have 15 parties represented in the House of Representatives, they have no constituencies. The constituencies of the former two-party system were dissolved by economic and political events. The groups calling themselves parties are still in search of a constituency.

This is the reason why De Venecia's project is not a reform measure at all and will not achieve its objectives. He must first build the constituency for a party system whose party campaigns can be subsidized by state grants. Without this foundation, public and private donations will just be flowing to candidates. De Venecia's bill requires more homework.

Giving voice to all our words

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A HAPPY International Women's Day to all! I'm running in this space a message I sent to be read at the symposium yesterday sponsored by "Bantay Familia," an inter-agency network based in Legazpi, Albay. The network, composed of government, non-government and private sector groups, seeks to protect survivors of gender violence while conducting advocacy campaigns on the same issue.

* * *

BEFORE ANYTHING else, my apologies for not being with you today. As you know, family obligations prevent me from joining you today, but I know we are together at this moment in spirit and solidarity.

Please, don't carry out your boycott against the INQUIRER as you so threatened me in a text message. If you do, you won't be able to read about yourselves as this is coming out in my space tomorrow!

I've heard that you now call yourselves "the forlorn vaginas and penises," lonesome in your isolation in Albay now that you're deprived of my company. I don't know if I should claim credit for this epidemic of otherwise decent folk identifying themselves by their reproductive organs, but your gentle rebuke has set me thinking about what to say in this message.

You may have heard by now of the mini-firestorm that raged at the Loyola Heights campus of the Ateneo de Manila over the staging of "The Vagina Monologues." When students sought permission to stage the Filipino version of the play as part of the "Ateneo V-Day Campaign," they were told that a theology professor, a woman, would first have to evaluate the script and determine whether it was in keeping with the "Catholic and Jesuit character" of the university.

The professor, Dr. Ma. Christina Astorga, described as a "theology scholar with deep interest in feminist issues," read the translated script and concluded it shouldn't be staged as an official activity. Among other reasons, Dr. Astorga said she found that the repeated use of the word *"puki"* "grates on the psyche." The metaphor is lost, she said, until what is left is only the physical image of the vagina.

* * *

NOW I don't personally know what's so grating to the psyche about the imagined sight of the vagina. A character in the "Monologues" named Bob was so enamored of the vagina, in fact, that just by looking at it and appreciating it for its complex structure, he actually turned on his partner.

Anyway, in the wake of the controversy stirred by her assessment and the administration's decision, Dr. Astorga felt constrained to issue a clarification as part of what she called a "continuing dialogue" on "The Vagina Monologues." In this new statement, Dr. Astorga said that her "gut reaction" of unease, if not queasiness, at the repeated mention of the female sexual organ "found resonance" in, of all places, my column. In that column I had mentioned my teenage daughter's resistance to helping me rehearse my lines for the "V-Day" celebration because I was allegedly embarrassing her.

Well, now I've heard everything. Since when does a theology professor with interest in women's issues need buttressing from a 16-year-old with issues with her mother to support her position? I had told the story in jest. But when I asked my daughter later what was so wrong about hearing the word "vagina," she said it wasn't the word itself that she found embarrassing, but that it was being said by her mother! That's why I believe the anecdote is based more on our particular mother-daughter dynamic, than on any "natural" repugnance to hearing the word.

One of the reasons I am part of the women's movement, in fact, is so that my daughter will grow up in a world in which the word "vagina" is NOT a dirty word, nor one that will conjure unpleasant images.

* * *

WE have certainly come a long way from the beginnings of feminism, when one of our central tenets was in fact to resist the reduction of women to "objects" and "body parts." To view women as only the sum of tits and asses, slim waists and long, gleaming hair, provocative eyes and kissable lips, we said, was to turn us into objects ready for selling, marketing, trading and trafficking.

That today we have embraced a play called "The Vagina Monologues," indicates, I think, that we have long ceased considering our sexuality as simply a burden and a form of exploitation, although it is these to many women, but also as a blessing and a cause for celebration. I don't know why people like Dr. Astorga, who claims that "we approach (sex) like we are coming before the sanctuary of our being," can at the same time view the mere mention of the woman's sexual organ as distasteful and disagreeable. *Ano ba talaga, tita?*

Many of you in today's assembly, working together to mitigate the worst effects of violence against women, know intimately what viewing women as sexual objects and utilitarian outlets for lust and dominance can lead to. It cannot be pleasant nor enriching, dealing day-to-day with the evidence of inhumanity and the danger that resides in what should be the safest places on earth—our homes.

I really wish I were with you, personally paying homage to your courage, perseverance and enduring capacity to care for other people. I can only send, instead, these words of both encouragement and hope. Hope especially for the day when we can all lead full and integrated lives, lives that acknowledge our risks and burdens as women, but also lives and loves that celebrate our womanhood and give voice to all the words that describe us and fulfill us. *Mabuhay kayo!*

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

No lack of materials on 19th century Philippines

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHILE e-mail and texting have changed the way in which we live, I see these as challenges or even handicaps for future historians studying our life and times. One of the reasons I made a whole career that began with Jose Rizal and spilled into the Philippine Revolution and the Filipino-American War is that I had a lot of paper documents at my disposal. Whether in original manuscript form, with handwriting that was difficult to decipher, or in published compilations, the historian doing the 19th century will not lack material to draw a picture or make tentative conclusions. Rizal was a compulsive diarist, the Aguinaldo government run by Apolinario Mabini, was heavy into documentation in multiple copies. Even the enemy (that is, both Spanish and American) left us with very negative, racist and biased views but these are still primary sources for the historian.

When my cell phone mailbox is full, I delete text messages, when I read my e-mail I reply and delete. Much of our history is lost every day because we are trying to be a paperless society. Yes, we will save more trees this way, but if much of our texts and e-mail messages disappear as soon as we read them, the historian of the future will have less material.

I was just reading the published telegraphic conference between Emilio Aguinaldo, President of the Republic, and Gen. Venancio Concepcion in Bamban on Sept. 28, 1899. The document was translated from the original Spanish by J.R.M. Taylor and reads:

"President: Where is General San Miguel and his column?

"Reply: In the same place, occupying the same outposts.

"President: Has an attack been made in that part?

"Reply: Not on the railway, on Magalang. Firing ceased half an hour ago.

"President: Have our forces made no attack towards Angeles in view of the attack on Magalang?

"Reply: No, I am awaiting the cavalry to gain information upon the particular.

"President: Do you still need Cauit [Kawit] Battalion to go to that place?

"Reply: I believe that is absolutely necessary that Cauit Battalion should come to prevent surprise in the fields of the theater of operations, and in case you send it, a fervid address should be made to them so that they come animated with the best desires.

"President: If that is so, it will reach there this same afternoon about four o'clock. Besides, your good sense [may dictate], I recommend you add more attraction to said battalion so that they may fight well, and don't forget my instructions with respect defense right flank and one in front, all incognito, that is to say, deceit to attract the enemy and collect them in from Paruao bridge, and in case enemy's vanguard passes directly towards here from said bridge as a small force, they may be allowed to pass in groups of two or three companies, that the victory may be the more clever, besides animating the people, this in case you surround and capture them, and I believe that even by means of bayonets and the butt-ends of muskets you shall cut off and capture them, while those who are at our right flank with those of the rear guard may fire on them, etc. or whatever you may deem expedient. I have already given marching instructions to said battalion with expectations of your thorough sympathy with it, they are very happy and animated.

"Reply: I have to compliment you on your very pertinent advice and I shall endeavor in every possible way to respond to your desires, which are those of the country. This morning's attack is perhaps the result of the desire of the enemy to extend his reconnaissance into Magalang, or a feint to turn us from the right direction. I am on the alert to grasp all details, and to be able to act when the moment comes, with true knowledge of the cause of any important new event that may occur, you shall have a true report.

"President: Thanks, and I hope, as I always hope, that you will be the first who shall give victory in favor of our country, whenever you reach that murdering line of Americans; and I reiterate, establish no guards other than patrols, in order to prevent the enemy's knowledge by means of his spies, except as a last resort should the enemy attack us, only show each one his respective post and line of retreat. In case of necessity, concentrate on Cutcut river, or whatever you may deem expedient. In regard to all these instructions I am well aware that you know I have only advised, for you are more of a soldier than I.

"Reply: I appreciate the unmerited sentiments you have formed about me, and I only await for an opportunity to be able to show you by deeds the work of my scant knowledge. You can remain assured that all your orders shall be duly executed in all [its] parts, and if any doubt should occur to me I shall consult you in due time.

"President: Thanks, if there is nothing else I can do, I will take leave.

"Reply: At your orders, Goodbye."

Surely, there are more telegraphic reports like the above awaiting a patient historian in the National Library. Till then, we will not have a complete reconstruction of the Philippine struggle for nationhood. With a telegraph, Aguinaldo was able to follow the progress of the war. With maps, other sources and hindsight we who live in 2002 can look back and see much more than Aguinaldo did.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Neighbors

HIGH BLOOD

Naty Lapuz-Templo

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

BEING social creatures, people cannot live without neighbors—the ones next door, the ones you like to smile at or nod to, the ones you bat the breeze with over the fence, the ones you can borrow a head of onion or garlic from when you run out, and the like.

I marvel at those who prefer to banish themselves to isolated places with only nature as their companion. I salute them for their fierce independence and their self-sufficiency. For a while, maybe, such a life could be pleasurable and calming, but when the novelty wears off, it can be boring, to say the least.

Neighbors make this journey on earth invariably interesting. Having lived in a number of localities, I fancy myself an authority of sorts on those who people a neighborhood.

My favorites are the caring neighbors, such as the little lady who called me up one early morning to say that our overhead water tank had been overflowing, concerned obviously about the wasted water and electricity, not to mention the flooding of our backyard. Then there was this young couple who advised us on the then still unheard of *feng shui* and planted in our garden—for good fortune—a full-grown red palm they had uprooted from theirs.

A neighbor from across the street deserves an award for generosity. He likes to share with others the produce of his "mini-farm." He would even bring over to our doorstep some freshly picked corn or *rambutan* when he harvests. In our Quezon City subdivision, he has also become a source of *alugbati, saluyot*, papaya (green or ripe), *malunggay* and other vegetables.

It is during emergencies that one discovers the value of neighbors. Take the time—years ago—when my then 4-year-old daughter developed a high temperature in the middle of the night. We were living in a military camp and my husband was out on assignment in Mindanao. I had to frantically turn to the couple next door for help, and the husband (a one-star general, no less) promptly drove us to the clinic. Some military wives actually count on neighbors (more than their faraway spouses) to take them to the hospital when they have to keep a date with the stork.

In my view, neighborly relationships among folks in the province are stronger. In Arayat, Pampanga, where I grew up, my parents shared food crops, recipes, viands and health tips with immediate neighbors. Even special clothes (gowns of *sagalas* in the *santacruzan*), medicines (usually left over after one got well from an ailment with similar symptoms), and health aids or equipment were passed on. We had two enemas at home (pitcher-like contraptions made of glass on a metal frame): one for our family use, and the other for lending out. (Seems that people then found better relief for their constipation, from the enema than from laxatives.)

There was no need for a newsletter in my town, as news (a.k.a. gossip) would spread fast, thanks to the ambulant fish and meat vendor whom weary housewives patronized, the water bill collector, the electric bill collector, the *labandera/planchadora* and others who serviced different homes during the week. Thus, did my mother learn who were getting married or separated, who was gravely ill and dying, who were living high but could not pay their debts and who was being disinherited by his rich parents for being a drunkard, a gambler and a womanizer. For some reason my mother hesitated to talk about our family's fortunes and misfortunes except with really trusted neighbors.

In the province, the biblical commandment to "love thy neighbor" is often obeyed assiduously by young people, sometimes with happy results (such as a wedding), sometimes not. In the case of the latter, it is bad enough that the children's romance sours; what is lamentable is that neighbors can get alienated for years and years and years. To my mind, these are the kind of parents who will get involved in their children's quarrels and take their sides right or wrong.

Because of diverse interests, such closeness and familiarity are often lacking among city dwellers. When my siblings and I were Manila residents many years ago, we often wondered what kind of people lived on our street. I suppose they were likewise curious about us, for sometimes we would catch them peeping through their window grills whenever we came home from school or the office.

One young lady made it plain that she wanted to make our acquaintance—rather, my brothers'—for she would linger by their backdoor opposite our side window in her bare-shouldered sundress, a tentative smile on her lips. We eventually befriended her, and she proved to be sweet and lonely, but, alas, my brothers treated her just like another sister.

We also came to know bits and pieces of an odd couple's circumstances through their top-of-the-lungs shouting matches when they fought. And when they were happy, their laughter reached both ends of the street, drowning out the infernal zooming and whizzing of speeding vehicles beyond.

It helps to organize a neighborhood association, as we have in our subdivision, to encourage residents to get to know one another. Security, sanitation, garbage management and pet control for instance, can also be looked into.

Neighbors' pets are a controversial matter. They may be cute and cuddly, and I do admire them from afar, but when they litter my front yard with their droppings, they cease to be so. And I feel strongly that huge, unfriendly and monstrous-looking dogs should be kept within one's premises instead of being let loose outside where they can cause the fainthearted to collapse from fright.

I think there should also be strict rules against noise pollution. Personally I am not bothered by the dull and rhythmic *tsak, tsak, tsak* of someone's axe on firewood at 5:30 in the morning. It can substitute for the roosters' crowing in rural areas, and most people are waking up at that hour anyway. The really irritating sounds are those of horns insistently honking at 2 a.m. or thereabouts and someone's stereo blaring rock-and-roll tunes at the fullest volume no matter what time of day. I suggest for the stereo's owners to have their ears examined for some abnormality, and to the horn-blower to get an automatic garage door opener (if he can't afford it, his suffering neighbors might agree to pitch in).

Another contentious issue in any community is the collection of monthly dues from residents for the maintenance of certain services. A few years back, our officers hit upon a clever way to make people pay: they distributed a number of trash bags marked with our subdivision's initials in exchange of one's payment, and instructed garbage collectors to pick up only the marked bags. For a while I think it worked, but last time I heard, some homeowners have been lagging behind in their obligations again.

On the whole, I am comfortable with my present neighbors. At times I feel even closer with them than with my own relatives. One thing I have learned, though, is that to have agreeable neighbors, you should first be an agreeable one yourself.

Naty Lapuz-Templo is in her 60s and retired from government service in mid-1998.

Violating Pinay sensibilities

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Anna Miren Gonzalez-Intal, vice president of the Loyola School of Ateneo, for bravely disapproving the staging of "The Vagina Monologues" inside the Ateneo de Manila University. Finally, I hear a sober voice above the loud noise that has been shouting the word "vagina and all its other derivatives" in the past months.

I believe in the advocacy of the women behind "The Vagina Monologues," which is to expose and stop violence against women, but is this the best way to do it? In the process of teaching women to stand up for their rights against violence, must we also teach them to let go of their sense of modesty and privacy? Should we be quick in adopting Western values, which are actually contrary to our own culture? Is being able to openly talk about our vaginas part of the liberation we need as women?

When we refer to ourselves as "interesting vaginas and vulvas" won't we precisely open ourselves up to being seen as sexual objects rather than whole persons? Let us work against violence to women, but in the process let us not violate our own sensibilities.

—GRACE PADILLA, 9 Apo St., Quezon City

No difference between soldiers and terrorists

WE are not Abu Sayyaf lovers or terrorist coddlers. We are Filipinos and, yes, we are against the presence of US troops in combat zones.

The government's main justification for the presence of these US troops is to help train the Armed Forces of the Philippines in jungle warfare against the Abu Sayyaf. For us, this is a blatant admission that the AFP is "*bulok*" and that it is inutile in fighting a handful of criminals.

We believe that the AFP and the Philippine National Police, for that matter, are indeed "*bulok*" to the core. No amount of training or modernization of equipment, even if it comes from the United States, can help them. They are *bulok* because they concocted this mock war versus the Abu Sayyaf which they themselves created.

Peasant women and children in Basilan have been suffering because of this ineptitude while those in other parts of the country suffer as a result of their own atrocities. In fact, the military is the Abu Sayyaf for the rest of the countryside. If only such atrocities were videotaped like the one the government recently showed, everyone would realize that there really is no difference between soldiers and terrorists.

—CARMEN BUENA, chair, Amihan (National Federation of Peasant Women), 90 J. Bugallon St., Project 4, Quezon City

Why not a new forest in Metro Manila?

CAN you imagine a forest right within Metropolitan Manila? This is not a farfetched vision. It is easily attainable if only the government cared.

The island built in the middle of the sea through reclamation covering Pasay City to Las Piñas authorized by the Public Estates Authority has easily developed a forest because of the wild trees and vegetation that grew all over.

If the PEA has caused the reclamation of thousands of hectares in Manila Bay for commercial purpose, the easier it is to produce at least 50 hectares where a forest can flourish as a sanctuary for birds and wild animals.

This will not only provide a pleasant resort for frolickers and recreation enthusiasts in Metro Manila as well as a fine beach for bathers.

It will also provide jobs to the youth who may be utilized as sort of forest rangers who will protect both plant and wildlife that may easily flourish.

The idea is patterned after a man-made mini-forest replete with wildlife and streams in the very heart of a progressive European city, Brussels in Belgium. It is one of its major tourist attractions.

Manila residents today are wanting of forests although they used to abound until the 1950s in surrounding towns along with farms, rivers, streams, fishponds and other typical landscapes of the Philippine countrysides.

The idea of creating a forest in the middle of the sea is possible with the usual cooperation of developers from whom the government gets a share of about 40 percent for any reclamation from which, in turn, a fraction can be set aside for a man-made forest accessible by accredited boats.

Imagine the delight of Metro Manilans when this vision becomes a reality. They would no longer need to travel for hours to enjoy nature.

For a green Metro Manila, *bakawan* trees can also be grown along the Manila Bay similar to the bushes that now abound in the reclaimed shores of Las Piñas.

—ALFRED L. JUNTILLA, Environmental Livelihood & Development Foundation, 416 Hansuyin Village, Las Piñas City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Case that cries out for closure

CONGRATULATIONS on your fine editorial of Feb. 26, 2002, titled "No closure yet."

You, however, failed to mention the case that cries out most strongly for closure, namely, the assassination of Ninoy Aquino. The subordinates have been tried and condemned. The masterminds remain officially unidentified and for all we know, if they are still alive, they may be riding around in style or enjoying control of substantial economic assets.

The Aquino killing was an all-military operation. Are we expected to accept passively as a fact that no one in the Armed Forces knows anything about it? Or is there a culture of silence or *omerta*?

As you rightly point out, before forgiveness there must be confession and contrition, and before reconciliation there must be justice.

—DR. BENITO J. LEGARDA JR., 7 Polk St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

Two women had knee operations here

MY sister-in-law and her friend are both older than President Estrada. Six months ago, my sister-in-law and her friend both had their knees operated on for the same ailment that bothers the former president. They had the operation done here, my sister-in-law at the De Los Santos Hospital on E. Rodriguez Avenue, and her friend at the National Orthopedic Hospital on Banawe Street, both in Quezon City. After the wounds had healed, they underwent therapy to regain their ability to walk, including exercise requiring them to go up and down the stairs.

I know all these because I took care of them during their operations and therapy sessions. Now they are doing so well that they are embarking on a pilgrimage abroad.

The former president is much younger than the two ladies. We have very competent doctors and excellent facilities here. If he is operated on immediately, his younger age should guarantee a fast and complete recovery. In six months he will be walking normally.

—LAGRIMAS L. GALANG, 6 Derby St., While Plains, Quezon City

Ad will correct sign language used

IN REFERENCE to the opinion of Ervin R. Reyes of the Manila Christian Computer Institute for the Deaf Foundation Inc. last Feb. 28, titled "Wrong sign language used in advertisement." As president of the Philippine Federation of the Deaf Inc. and chair of the National Sign Language Committee, we concur with opinions regarding the use of the sign language in the said advertisement.

We would like to inform you that the airing of the "Bee Happy" advertisement was suspended last Feb. 15, as proposed by the key deaf leaders of the Filipino Deaf Community after meeting with Jollibee Corp. and its advertising agency last Feb. 7. Our two other proposals on the production of future advertisements, and the involvement of the deaf adult leaders in the production have been accepted by Jollibee Corp. and are still in the process of being followed-up with them. We are optimistic that the matter will be resolved in due time, in cooperation with Jollibee Corp. and its advertising agency.

—RAPHAEL V. DOMINGO, national president, Philippine Federation of the Deaf Inc., and chair, National Sign Language Committee

Rebelling against the justice system

IN DISMISSING his retinue of lawyers, ousted President Joseph Estrada criticized the justice system as rotten and argued that rebels are born out of injustice. This is not the trademark "Eraption" but the plain and simple truth. Whether he is doing it as part a legal ploy, Estrada is truly describing reality.

In their everyday lives, the workers and the poor are victimized by the inequalities of the law and the double standard of justice. Justice is blind only in the sense that it is blinded by the power of money and the privilege of power. In this system, the law is biased against the poor and it is a crime to fight injustice.

Yet while Estrada is describing the truth about the injustices of this system, why is he saying it only now and what did he do to redress it when he was in power? Still, the workers will welcome it if Estrada can metamorphose from a disgraced former president to a rebel with a cause.

Now that Estrada has censured Lucio Tan in public, the workers want him to confess that he used the powers of the presidency to help his erstwhile friend pressure the Philippine Airlines Employees Association (Palea) into a 10-year moratorium of its CBA. Now that Estrada has become a "rebel," the workers want him to condemn as an injustice the soon to be released decision of the Third Division of the Supreme Court affirming the constitutionality of the Palea CBA moratorium.

With Estrada's quip that to rebel is just, he is now acting as the Pinoy Che Guevara. The workers and the poor have all the reason to protest even rise against injustice but they should do so not in sympathy for Estrada but in consideration of their own plight. It is not the poor who must rise for Estrada but it is he who should rebel for the masses.

—VICTOR BRIZ, president, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, 17 Masikap St., Teachers Village, Diliman, Quezon City

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H. No. 3593
S. No. 1824

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

Metro Manila

Twelfth Congress

First Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, On Monday, the twenty-third day of July, two thousand one.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9163]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM (NSTP) FOR TERTIARY LEVEL STUDENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077 AND PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1706, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "National Service Training Program (NSTP)Act of 2001."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*-It is hereby affirmed the prime duty of the government to serve and protect its citizens. In turn, it shall be the responsibility of all citizens to defend the security of the State and in fulfillment thereof, the government may require each citizen to render personal, military or civil service.

Recognizing the youth's vital role in nation-building, the State shall promote civic consciousness among the youth and shall develop their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism, nationalism, and advance their involvement in public and civic affairs.

In pursuit of these goals, the youth, the most valuable resource of the nation, shall be motivated, trained, organized and mobilized in military training, literacy, civic welfare and other similar endeavors in the service of the nation.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*-For purposes of this Act, the following are hereby defined as follows:

(a) "National Service Training Program (NSTP)" is a program aimed at enhancing civic consciousness and defense preparedness in the youth by developing the ethics of service and patriotism while undergoing training in any of its three (3) program components. Its various components are specially designed to enhance the youth's active contribution to the general welfare.

(b) "Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)" is a program institutionalized under Sections 38 and 39 of Republic Act No. 7077 designed to provide military training to tertiary level students in order to motivate, train, organize and mobilize them for national defense preparedness.

(c) "Literacy Training Service" is a program designed to train students to become teachers of literacy and numeracy skills to school children, out of school youth, and other segments' of society in need of their service.

(d) "Civic Welfare Training Service" refers to programs or activities contributory to the general welfare and the betterment of life for the members of the community or the enhancement of its facilities, especially those devoted to improving health, education, environment, entrepreneurship, safety, recreation and morals of the citizenry.

(e) "Program component" shall refer to the service components of the NSTP as enumerated in Section 4 of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Establishment of the National Service Training Program.*-There is hereby established a National Service Training Program (NSTP), which shall form part of the curricula of all baccalaureate degree courses and of at least two (2)-year technical-vocational courses and is a requisite for graduation, consisting of the following service components:

(1) The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), which is hereby made optional and voluntary upon the effectivity of this Act;
(2) The Literacy Training Service; and
(3) The Civic Welfare Training Service.

The ROTC under the NSTP shall instill patriotism, moral, virtues, respect for rights of civilians, and adherence to the Constitution, among others. Citizenship training shall be given emphasis in all three (3) program components.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in consultation with the Department of National Defense (DND), Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines (COCOPEA) and other concerned government agencies, may design and implement such other program components as may be necessary in consonance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Coverage.*-Students, male and female, of any baccalaureate degree course or at least two (2)-year technical-vocational courses in public and private educational institutions shall be required to complete one (1) of the NSTP components as requisite for graduation.

SEC. 6. *Duration and Equivalent Course Unit.*-Each of the aforementioned NSTP program components shall be undertaken for an academic period of two (2) semesters.

In lieu of the two (2)-semester program for any of the components of the NSTP, a one (1)-summer program may be designed, formulated and adopted by the DND, CHED and TESDA.

SEC. 7. *NSTP Offering in Higher and Technical-Vocational Educational Institutions.*-All higher and technical-vocational institutions, public and private, must offer at least one of the program components: *Provided,* That State universities and colleges shall offer the ROTC component and at least one other component as provided herein: *Provided, further*, That private higher and technical-vocational education institutions may also offer the ROTC if they have at least three hundred and fifty (350) cadet students.

In offering the NSTP whether during the semestral or summer periods, clustering of affected students from different educational institutions may be done, taking into account logistics, branch of service and geographical considerations. Schools that do not meet the required number of students to maintain the optional ROTC and any of the NSTP components shall allow their students to cross-enroll to other schools irrespective of whether or not the NSTP components in said schools are being administered by the same or another branch of service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), CHED and TESDA to which schools are identified.

SEC. 8. *Fees and Incentives.*-Higher and technical-vocational institutions shall not collect any fee for any of the NSTP components except basic tuition fees, which shall not be more than fifty percent (50%) of what is currently charged by schools per unit.

In the case of the ROTC, the DND shall formulate and adopt a program of assistance and/or incentive to those students who will take the said component.

The School authorities concerned, CHED and TESDA shall ensure that group insurance for health and accident shall be provided for students enrolled in any of the NSTP components.

SEC. 9. *Scholarships.*-There is hereby created a Special Scholarship Program for qualified students taking the NSTP which shall be administered by the CHED and TESDA. Funds for this purpose shall be included in the annual regular appropriations of the CHED and TESDA.

SEC. 10. *Management of the NSTP Components.*-The school authorities shall exercise academic and administrative supervision over the design, formulation, adoption and implementation of the different NSTP components in their respective schools: *Provided*, That in case a CHED- or TESDA-accredited nongovernment organization (NGO) has been contracted to formulate and administer a training module for any of the NSTP components, such academic and administrative supervision shall be exercised jointly with that accredited NGO: *Provided, further*, That such training module shall be accredited by the CHED and TESDA.

The CHED and TESDA regional offices shall oversee and monitor the implementation of the NSTP under their jurisdiction to determine if the trainings are being conducted in consonance with the objectives of this Act. Periodic reports shall be submitted to the CHED, TESDA and DND in this regard.

SEC.11. *Creation of the National Service Reserve Corps.*-There is hereby created a National Service Reserve Corps, to be composed of the graduates of the non-ROTC components. Members of this Corps may be tapped by the State for literacy and civic welfare activities through the joint effort of the DND, CHED and TESDA.

Graduates of the ROTC shall form part of the Citizens' Armed Force, pursuant to Republic Act No. 7077.

SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules.*-The DND, CHED and TESDA shall have the joint responsibility for the adoption of the implementing rules of this Act within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act.

These three (3) agencies shall consult with other concerned government agencies, the PASUC and COCOPEA, NGOs and recognized student organizations in drafting the implementing rules.

The implementing rules shall include the guidelines for the adoption of the appropriate curriculum for each of the NSTP components as well as for the accreditation of the same.

SEC. 13. *Transitory Provisions.*-Students who have yet to complete the Basic ROTC, except those falling under Section 14 of this Act, may either continue in the program component they are currently enrolled or shift to any of the other program components of their choice: *Provided*, That in case he shifts to another program component, the Basic ROTC courses he has completed shall be counted for the purpose of completing the NSTP requirement: *Provided, further*, That once he has shifted to another program component, he shall complete the NSTP in that component.

SEC. 14. *Suspension of ROTC Requirement.*-The completion of ROTC training as a requisite for graduation is hereby set aside for those students who despite completing all their academic units as of the effectivity of this Act have not been allowed to graduate.

SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.*-If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 16. *Amendatory Clause.*-Section 35 of Commonwealth Act. No. 1 Executive Order No. 207 of 1939, Sections 2 and 3 of Presidential Decree No. 1706, and Sections 38 and 39 of Republic Act No. 7077, as well as all laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed amended and modified accordingly.

SEC. 17. *Effectivity.*-This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of national circulation, but the implementation of this Act shall commence in the school year of 2002-2003.

Approved:

(Sgd.) FRANKLIN M. DRILON
President of the Senate

(Sgd.) JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.
Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which is a consolidation of H.B. No. 3593 and S.B. No. 1824 was finally passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on December 19, 2001.

(Sgd.) OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

(Sgd.)ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General
House of Representatives

Approved: January 23, 2002

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

More troops, choppers join assault

WASHINGTON—Hundreds more US troops and additional attack helicopters have been moved to reinforce a fierce five-day-old US-led fight to the finish with al-Qaida fighters in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan, the commander of the US campaign said Wednesday.

"I think the days ahead are going to continue to be dangerous days for our forces that are committed to this effort," said Army General Tommy Franks. "But the alternative to taking such risk is not acceptable in my view."

The reinforcements followed a series of bloody clashes Monday that left eight Americans dead—the highest US combat toll of the war—and reports that the US-led forces were surprised by the ferocity of the resistance and the size of the al-Qaida force.

Franks said two to three hundred more US troops have been moved into the battle zone, a 155 sq. km. area centered on the Shahi Kot valley and the surrounding Arma mountains where more than 2,000 US, Afghan and coalition troops are fighting dug-in al-Qaida, Uzbek and Chechen fighters.

Five Marine AH-1 Cobra helicopter gunships also have been moved into the country from a US assault ship in the Arabian Sea to reinforce US Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopters that were shot up during the first days of fighting, military officials said.

A dozen more Apaches were en route to Afghanistan from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, headquarters of the Army's 101st Airborne Division, which has troops deployed in Afghanistan, a US defense official said on condition of anonymity.

Their arrival would double the size of the US military's fleet of Apache's in Afghanistan, which currently stands at fewer than 10, the official said. They were being shipped in Air Force C-17 aircraft.

"We have provided some additional robustness there with attack helicopters. We have positioned forces inside this objective area," Franks said.

But Franks and US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld denied at a Pentagon news conference that the move was because the battle had turned out to be tougher than expected.

"The forces we face represent very hardened elements of al-Qaida and Taliban, true dead-enders," Rumsfeld said. "We expected that they would put up a fierce fight, and they have and they are and they continue to do so."

Rumsfeld said the outcome was "reasonably assured—that people who have been in the battle will either surrender or be killed in the days ahead."

But if more al-Qaida or Taliban fighters converge on the area "that's fine, because we're looking for them wherever they are," Rumsfeld said. "And to the extent that additional forces are needed, we'll put what is needed to do the job."

Franks said additional Apache and Cobra attack helicopters, airlift capability, infantrymen and special forces might be needed.

In Afghanistan, Army Maj. Gen. Frank Hagenbeck, the commander of "Operation Anaconda," said at least half the 600 to 700 al-Qaida and Taliban forces already have been killed.

"We truly have the momentum at the moment," he told reporters at Bagram Air Base.

Afghan troops fighting with the Americans have suffered three dead and 15 to 25 wounded, Franks said. More than 40 US troops have been wounded in the fighting. Coalition troops from Canada and several European countries have suffered no casualties, according to Franks.

Three US troops were listed as casualties after coming down with altitude sickness fighting in the thin mountain air. *AFP*

Missile blast in Kabul kills 5 peacekeepers

KABUL—A Soviet-era anti-aircraft missile exploded Wednesday when international peacekeepers in the Afghan capital tried to defuse it. Two German and three Danish soldiers were killed and eight others were injured, officials said.

Brig. Gen. Carl Hubertus von Butler, commander of German peacekeeping troops in Afghanistan, called the explosion a "tragic incident" and said the top priority is caring for the wounded, who were rushed to peacekeepers' medical facilities in Kabul.

The soldiers were attempting to destroy two Russian-made SA-3 ground-to-air missiles with a controlled explosion at a munitions collection point about 5 km from the German military's base in Kabul, said Gen. Harald Kujat, Germany's top military officer.

The SA-3 was part of the arsenal of Afghanistan's former Taliban rulers, officials said.

"Apparently, the explosion went off early," Kujat told a news conference in Berlin. "The soldiers were still in the area close to the two missiles."

Other details of the explosion remained unclear, such as how many soldiers were in the vicinity of the explosion, how the explosion was triggered and why the casualty figure was so high.

In addition to the five dead, eight soldiers were injured, Butler said. Kujat said that three of them were wounded seriously. Three of the injured were Danes, the Danish Defense Command said.

The casualties were the first German or Danish soldiers killed in the security force set up to protect the government of Afghan interim leader Hamid Karzai.

"It's not easy to continue our mission but we will continue it as well as we can," a somber Butler told a Kabul news conference late Wednesday night. *AP*

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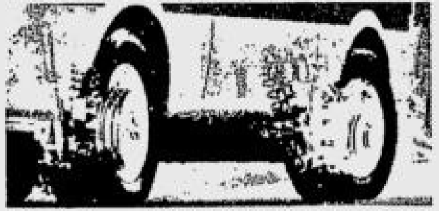

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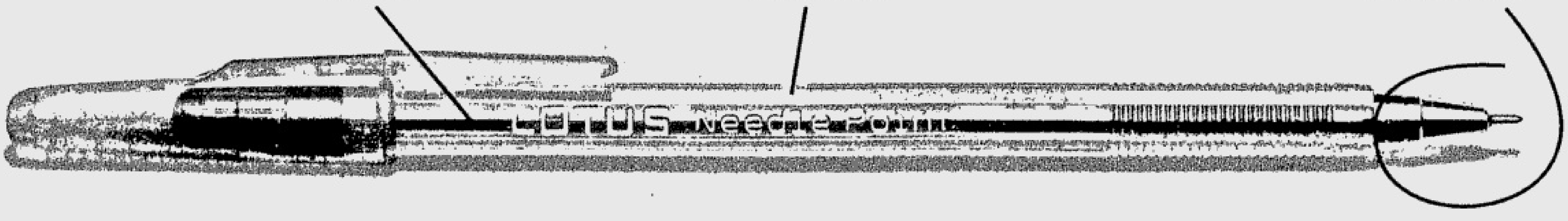

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Israeli forces mount new strikes in West Bank

A PALESTINIAN gunman prepares to shoot March 7 at the Jewish settlement Gilo, which Israelis regard as a neighborhood of Jerusalem.

REUTERS

TULKARM, West Bank—Israel sent tanks into the Palestinian-ruled city of Tulkarm and launched deadly air raids in the West Bank on Thursday despite a rare rebuke from the United States for its fierce reprisal strikes.

The rapid succession of attacks, in which two people were killed overnight in a missile hit on a refugee camp, added to the fast-rising death toll in Middle East violence that appeared to be spiraling toward all-out war.

Before dawn, dozens of tanks seized positions throughout Tulkarm in the northern West Bank in an operation the Israeli Army said was a sweep for "wanted terrorists and the weapons of terror networks."

A helicopter gunship fired a missile at the nearby Nour Shams refugee camp, where troops fought Palestinian gunmen, and F-16 warplanes struck security targets in Palestinian-ruled Bethlehem, witnesses and security sources said.

The Israeli assaults took place just hours after an air raid on Arafat's West Bank headquarters in Ramallah.

Arafat, who has been confined to Ramallah by Israeli forces for three months, was meeting European Union Middle East envoy Miguel Angel Moratinos in his office when a missile slammed into a store room in an adjacent building. No one was hurt.

Israel said the attack, which followed a heightened wave of strikes against Arafat's headquarters and compounds belonging to his Fatah faction, was part of its "war against terror."

But Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rdainah called the Ramallah attack "very dangerous."

As tit-for-tat fighting reached new heights, Washington—Israel's staunchest ally—weighed in with some of its toughest criticism yet of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"If you declare war on the Palestinians and think you can solve the problem by seeing how many Palestinians can be killed—I don't know that leads us anywhere," US Secretary of State Colin Powell told the US Congress on Wednesday.

After midnight, Israeli forces cut off electricity to Tulkarm and at least 50 tanks rumbled in from all sides, Palestinian witnesses and security sources said.

Sporadic shooting echoed in the streets but soon died away, and troops took over the home of a senior official of Arafat's Fatah movement, the sources said.

Tanks also surrounded the Nour Shams refugee camp east of Tulkarm and soldiers exchanged fire with Palestinian gunmen. A helicopter gunship fired a missile that slammed into a street inside the camp, killing two people, hospital sources said.

The Israeli Army said it "took up strongholds" in the area and was conducting house-to-house searches but gave no sign of how long it planned to stay.

Warplanes later struck and destroyed a building in central Bethlehem housing a security headquarters, offices of Arafat's elite Force-17 unit and a military medical facility, witnesses said. There were no immediate reports of casualties. *Reuters*

TAIWAN

2 ex-security chiefs in spy fund mess quit

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Two former national security chiefs have resigned one day after they were impeached for failing to uncover the embezzlement of millions from a secret fund in the intelligence bureau, the government said.

Ting Yu-chou, secretary general of the National Security Council, an advisory body to the president, resigned Wednesday to take political responsibility for the embezzlement scandal, a presidential office statement said.

Another former director of the National Security Bureau, Yin Tsung-wen resigned as a presidential adviser, the statement said.

Yin served as head of the security bureau in 1993-99. Ting took over the job from Yin and stepped down late last year.

On Tuesday, the watchdog Control Yuan reported that over a period of five years, former National Security Bureau accountant Liu Kuan-chun stole $5.48 million by skimming off interest earnings from the bureau's secret fund.

The report said Liu laundered the money by putting it into short-term stock investments and real estate. After the bureau discovered Liu's alleged misdeeds, he fled Taiwan.

The Control Yuan voted to impeach the two men for failing to manage the secret fund and prevent Liu's flight from Taiwan.

The secret fund was established by the security bureau decades ago to finance the former Nationalist government's cause to retake the Chinese mainland. The Nationalists fled the mainland in 1949 after losing a civil war to the communists.

Ting will be succeeded by Chiou I-jen, a minister without portfolio and a confidant of Presidential Chen Shui-bian, according to the presidential statement.

Chiou served briefly as a deputy secretary general of the security council after Chen was elected president two years ago. *AP*

Scientists find 3.5B-year-old microbe fossils

NEW YORK—Researchers using a highly sensitive laser say they have detected fossilized traces of bacteria 3.5 billion years old—a find that could push back dramatically the earliest definitive evidence of life on Earth.

Other scientists dispute the claim, however.

The apparent "microfossils" were found in shale-like formations in western Australia in the early 1990s by a team that included J. William Schopf. The evidence of life consists of microscopic, filament-like strands in the rock.

Shortly after the find, Schopf, a paleobiologist at the University of California at Los Angeles, said that the material appeared to be one of the earliest recorded bits of life on Earth.

In an article in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature, Schopf reported that he and colleagues at the University of Alabama-Birmingham further analyzed the samples with a tool known as laser-Raman imaging.

"This pushes back by a billion years the prior definitive evidence of the earliest life on Earth," said University of Alabama astrophysicist Thomas Wdowiak, a member of the research team.

Wdowiak said the laser technology could measure the molecular vibrations of very tiny particles and map the chemical makeup. Tests found the material to be made up of organic carbon—evidence that the substance was once alive, the researchers said.

"The organic matter that we detected is to very ancient microbes as coal is to less ancient plants," Wdowiak said.

In a separate paper in Nature, however, a team of researchers in England and Australia cast serious doubt on the claim. They said other tests show no evidence that the formations were once ancient life.

They said the filament-like strands might instead be just traces of the mineral graphite. *AP*

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World awash in stolen, misplaced arms-grade nuke material, data show

SAN FRANCISCO—International researchers have compiled what they say is the world's most complete database of lost, stolen and misplaced nuclear material—depicting a world awash in weapons-grade uranium and plutonium that nobody can account for.

"It truly is frightening," Lyudmila Zaitseva, a visiting fellow at Stanford University's Institute for International Studies (IIS), said on Wednesday.

"I think this is the tip of the iceberg."

Stanford announced its database as US senators held a hearing in Washington to assess the threat of "dirty bombs," or radioactive material dispersed by conventional explosives.

The Stanford program, dubbed the Database on Nuclear Smuggling, Theft and Orphan Radiation Sources (DSTO), is intended to help governments and international agencies track wayward nuclear material worldwide, supplementing existing national programs which often fail to share information.

The project took on added urgency following the Sept. 11 assaults on New York and Washington, which spurred fears that extremist groups might seek to use nuclear weapons in future attacks.

"It blows the mind—the lack of information," said George Bunn, a veteran arms control negotiator and a member of the database group. "What we're trying to say is: 'what are the facts?'"

The facts, even on cursory examination, are chilling.

Zaitseva said that, over the past ten years, at least 40 kg of weapons-usable uranium and plutonium had been stolen from poorly-protected nuclear facilities in the former Soviet Union.

While most of this material was subsequently retrieved, at least 2 kg of highly enriched uranium stolen from a reactor in Georgia remains missing and unaccounted for.

Other thefts have included several fuel rods which disappeared from a research reactor in the Congo in the mid-1990s. While one of these fuel rods later resurfaced in Italy—reportedly in the hands of the Mafia—the other has not been found.

The Stanford group, led by nuclear physicist and arms control researcher Friedrich Steinhausler, decided to form its database after becoming alarmed at how patchy most of the available information was.

Combining data from two existing unclassified databases and adding new information from sources ranging from government agencies to local media reports, the team has evaluated each entry for accuracy and probability.

"You'd be surprised how much scientific junk is in the existing databases, from mixing up units to reporting on tertiary sources," Steinhausler said.

The database includes both illicitly obtained weapons-grade nuclear material as well as "orphaned" radiation sources—scientific or medical material that may have been lost, misplaced or simply thrown away but which still poses a health and security threat. *Reuters*

INDIAN Muslim Qutbuddin Nasseruddin, 29, is shown in this March 1 photo pleading for his life after being surrounded by Hindu militants. Nasseruddin survived the riots that ravaged Ahmedabad, western India, in recent days.

REUTERS

Death toll in India riots placed at 665

AHMEDABAD, India—The official death toll in India's recent sectarian violence has topped 650 people, including those killed when a Muslim mob burnt 58 mostly Hindu activists aboard a train, police said Thursday.

A police official said the estimated death toll has shot up from Wednesday's figure of around 600 people with the police recovering a large number of bodies overnight.

"There have been no fresh killings," he said.

The estimated number of dead is now 665, including the victims of the train massacre.

The sectarian violence was triggered on Feb. 27 when a mob in the Muslim dominated western Indian town of Godhra descended on the train carrying Hindu activists and set four coaches on fire.

Hindu-Muslim clashes broke out all over the Gujarat state, but the situation has returned to normal with heavy deployment of army and police reserves. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Oldest Christian tombstone

TOKYO—Archeologists have unearthed what is believed to be the oldest Christian tombstone in Japan, a granite slab buried centuries ago to elude persecution by feudal authorities who outlawed the foreign religion. Dating to 1581, the pointed plot marker is believed to be that of Tsushima Tawara, a local warlord whose family apparently hid the stone to erase connections to the taboo faith, an official said Thursday. Christianity was introduced to Japan in 1549 by Spanish missionary Francisco Xavier. But as he took on thousands of converts and began to rival the authority of ruling warlords, the shogun banned the religion in 1613. Practicing the faith was made punishable by death. *AP*

Reporters' visa reinstated

BANGKOK—Thailand on Thursday reinstated the visas of two foreign journalists which were revoked last month on grounds of national security, as a war of words with the local media intensified. Yongyuth Vichaidit, chair of an interior ministry appeals panel, told reporters the panel had voted unanimously to reinstate the visas of Far Eastern Economic Review correspondents Shawn Crispin, 33, and Rodney Tasker, 56. "Under Thai culture, those who have ignorantly done something wrong and have apologized to the Thai public can be forgiven. The panel has agreed to allow the pair to continue staying in Thailand until their visas have expired," Yongyuth said. The Hong Kong-based Review, owned by US publisher Dow Jones & Co, apologized on Monday to the Thai parliament for any misunderstandings caused a story in the magazine's Jan. 10 edition deemed by police to be offensive to the Thai monarchy. *Reuters*

Colombia eyes 'war tax'

BOGOTA—As officials here Wednesday consider levying a new "war tax" to finance the country's war against rebels and paramilitaries, the US House of Representatives approved a measure inviting President George W. Bush to widen US involvement in Colombia. The government of President Andres Pastrana "receives with pleasure" news of the vote, the Colombian foreign ministry said in a statement late Wednesday. The vote is proof of "solid support" from the US Congress "at a time our country faces a complex situation" after peace talks with leftist rebels collapsed Feb. 20, the statement read. The House passed by a voice vote a resolution inviting Bush to introduce ideas for legislation that would allow Washington to widen US military aid to Colombia, currently limited to anti-narcotics operations. *AFP*

Cambodia hits UN officials

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—Cambodia on Wednesday accused United Nations refugee officials of illegally transporting 63 asylum-seekers from Vietnam into Cambodia, where officials deported them over the weekend. A foreign ministry official defended Cambodia's decision to classify the 63 as "illegal border crossers" and immediately deport them on Saturday. UN human rights envoy Peter Leuprecht on Monday criticized Cambodian authorities for forcibly repatriating the Vietnamese highlanders, known as Montagnards, and accused the officials of obstructing the work of UN aid workers. *AP*

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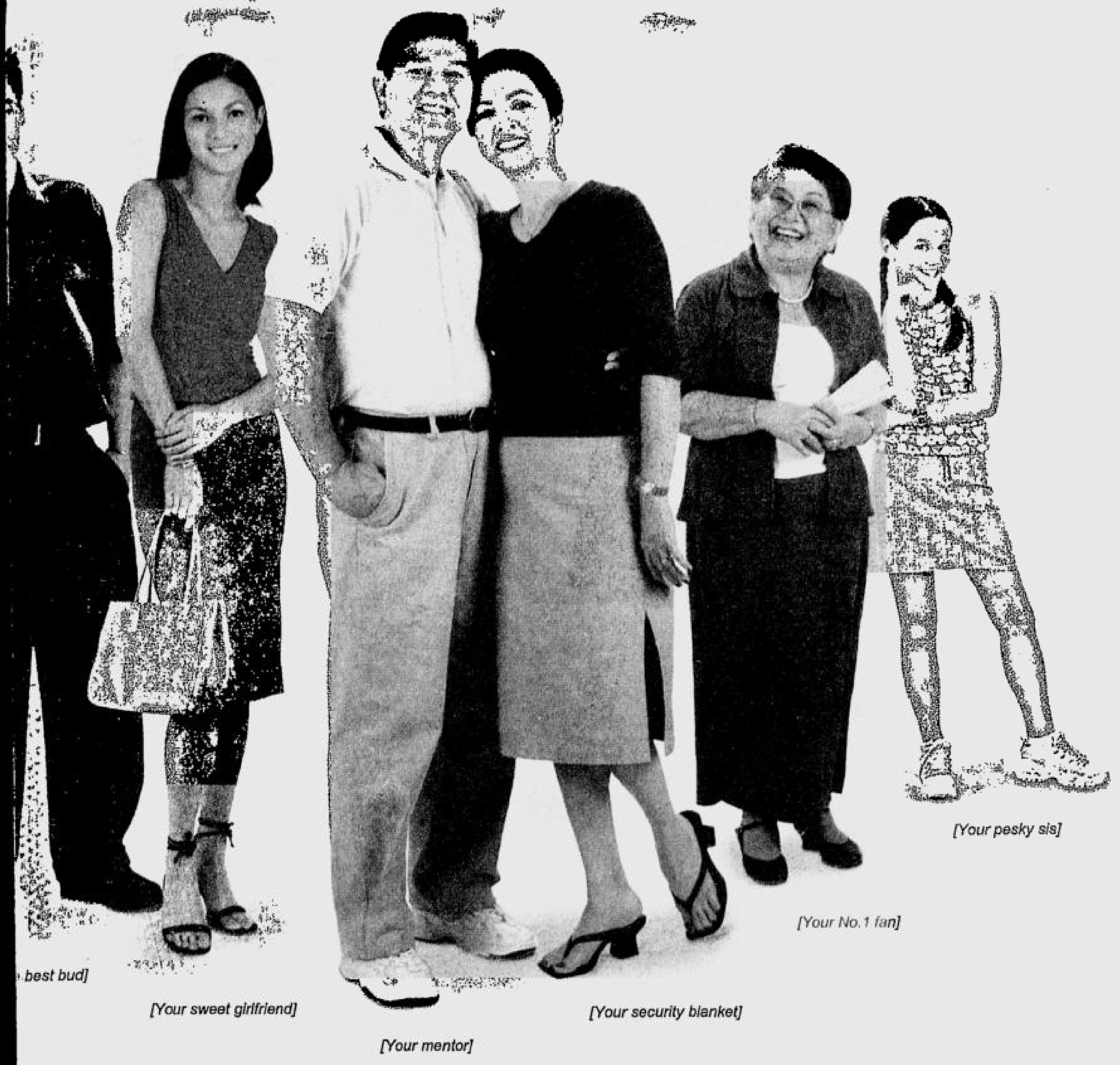

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Fax No. (074) 443-6971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St.,Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.webling.com

Aeta women lead anti-US caravan in Central Luzon

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Aeta women from Pampanga, Zambales and Tarlac are going to do the unusual today, International Women's Day.

They will perform the "*matubag*," a tribal war dance reserved for men, to protest the Philippine-US war games, the Pagkakaisa ng mga Kababaihan para sa Inang Bayan (KaisaKa) said in a statement here.

"This (performance of the war ritual) isn't about changing roles. It's about asserting the right of women to defend life and peace which the tribe customarily assigned to the men," said Liza Novo, an Aeta leader of the KaisaKa in Zambales.

Aeta women, together with anti-war activists, women workers, teachers, and students from communities around two former United States bases in Central Luzon, are among the 2,000 participants in the caravan dubbed "Parada ng Kababaihan laban sa Balikatan."

Hoping to stop the Balikatan, a large-scale military exercise ongoing in Mindanao, the protesters will also stage pickets in Clark in Pampanga and Subic in Zambales, organizers said in the statement.

Before proceeding to the US Embassy in Manila, the caravan will stop for a short program at the junction of the City of San Fernando, south of Clark.

In Baguio City, Cordillera women will march today to protest landgrabbing, violence against women and the Balikatan. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, with a report from Katrina Acupanda, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

GMA scraps heritage bodies

59 other agencies under President's office abolished

BAGUIO CITY—Officials manning two inscribed World Heritage sites were caught unaware by a directive of President Macapagal-Arroyo that abolished the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force (BRTTF) and the Vigan Heritage Commission (VHC) along with 59 other agencies under the Office of the President.

"We were not even told about our abolition by (Tourism Secretary Richard) Gordon, who met the BRTTF officials in Manila last Feb. 18. I am not even sure what signals (Ms Macapagal) is sending to the Unesco (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) after it included the rice terraces in its endangered list last December," said Lauris Anudon, BRTTF planning director.

Ms Macapagal issued on Feb. 11 Executive Order 72 that abolished 61 agencies and transferred the functions of 15 others to corresponding departments or agencies.

In Dagupan City, a Cabinet official said the abolished agencies had been sacrificed out of political expediency.

"It was a sudden decision. We expected the decision in May or June, and we thought (Ms Macapagal) will extend the (lifespan of these) commissions up to December. But she decided to sign (the EO) right then and there (during a March 1 conference held at Malacañang," said Environment Undersecretary Manuel Gerochi.

He announced on Tuesday the abolition of the Lingayen Gulf Coastal Area Management Commission (LGCAMC) based in Dagupan. Gerochi is executive officer of the Lingayen commission, which was created in 1994 by former President Fidel Ramos to provide a mechanism for preserving the environmentally critical Lingayen Gulf in Pangasinan.

Gerochi said the President met the heads of the affected commissions, and signed the order in front of them.

"There were some critical issues that (needed) to be addressed (by these commissions) for a definite period of time but the problem is a lot of (these) commissions went beyond the time limitation (set by law)," he said.

EO 72 prescribed abolition once an agency's mandate is in conflict or is replicated by the host town government. "This is not only true with the LGCAMC but with other commissions, so the local government unit and a lot of people push for the retention of such commissions even if their objectives have been completed," Gerochi said.

Anudon said the BRTTF officials were also perplexed about Gordon's silence regarding EO 72.

Gordon had discussed new work schedules with the BRTTF, which he heads, for rehabilitating and restoring the Ifugao rice terraces, Anudon said. Among the new projects being worked out is a P50-million book project to sell the Ifugao rice terraces.

Anudon said the BRTTF was opening talks with other agencies supervising other World Heritage sites such as the rice terraces, the Spanish colonial buildings in Vigan, the St. Paul subterranean park and the Tubbataha Reef in Palawan, and the Baroque churches of the Philippines.

He said all of the Heritage administrators, except for Vigan, responded positively to the BRTTF's call for a united position on the country's policy over Heritage sites last year.

In Vigan, VHC officials petitioned Gordon to absorb their office as an attached bureau of the Department of Tourism to save a 15-year program to restore and preserve the city's Heritage Village. ***Yolanda Fuertes, Vincent Cabreza and Leoncio Balbin, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Women's group raps gov't for 'misusing' gender funds

BAGUIO CITY—Militant women workers assailed government agencies and local government units for not using the gender and development (GAD) funds to finance women-related programs.

Tonette Dizon, secretary general of the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage), said no government line agencies have efficiently used the GAD funds, especially for programs related to the anti-sexual harassment law.

"We noticed that government agencies do not use the GAD funds adequately for women related projects, unless the militant women employees ask them to do so," Dizon said during a forum here on Wednesday.

She lamented that women employees cannot get support from government offices that handle GAD funds. She added that the unions or non-government agencies are the ones that support women employees who are victims of sexual harassment.

The GAD funds should have been used to sponsor seminars on women issues and development.

During the forum with women's groups, women employees of the National Food Authority said they do not know that a budget had been allotted for gender-related projects.

Vernie Yocogan, secretary general of Innabuyog-Gabriella, said the GAD funds were either used for other projects such as sports fest, ballroom dancing and parties.

"It is sad that the GAD funds are wasted on insignificant projects. The result is people do not change their views on women because of those *trapo* (traditional politics) projects," Yocogan said. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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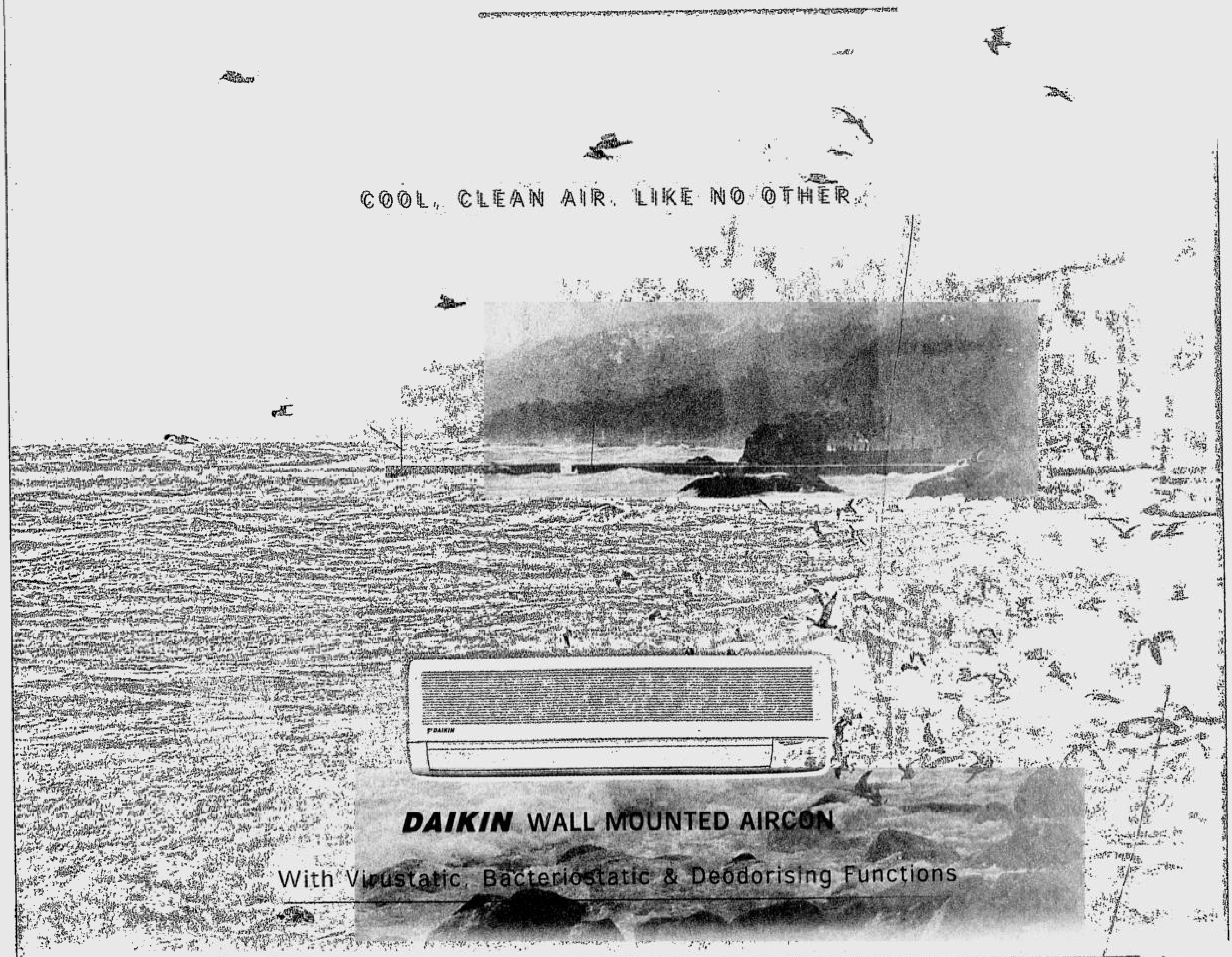
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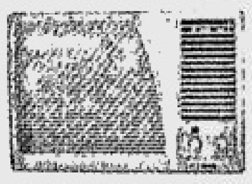
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‘Lumads’ lift protest outside radio station

BUTUAN CITY—Tribal protesters in front of the Bombo Radyo station here on Tuesday peacefully dispersed after a dialogue with police officials.

Before the protesters lifted their barricade, Bombo Radyo personnel were already preparing to act against members of the Kahugpongan sa mga Tribong Lumad sa Caraga (Katrilcar).

Security guards were seen loading their shotguns in case the Katrilcar members would fight back.

Regional Trial Court Judge Victor Tomaneng issued a temporary restraining order to the city government, Mayor Daisy Plaza, and their lawyers or agents to cease and desist from “disturbing or molesting” Bombo operations, building, structure and broadcast facilities.

To defuse the tension and avert violence, Supt. Celso Curitana, chief of the Police Regional Mobile Group, held a dialogue between the protesting *lumads* and Norbert Pagaspas, radio station manager.

The *lumads* were angered by Bombo's "attacks" on Plaza, a wife of one of their *datus*. Pagaspas said the station was only reporting legitimate issues against Plaza's administration.

After the meeting, the *lumads* agreed to remove the structures they set up outside the facility.

Judge Tomaneng described as “childish” nied allegations that he received money from Bombo Radyo for issuing the order.

“She (Plaza) destroyed the judiciary and my reputation as a judge," Tomaneng said.

The judge's reactions came more than a week after Plaza publicly accused him of abusing his authority for allegedly receiving an undisclosed sum of money from Bombo Radyo in exchange for his decision to grant a 20-day TRO on Feb. 21.

The case between Bombo Radyo and Plaza is now lodged at the RTC's Branch 2.

Tomaneng is a former legal counsel of Plaza's husband, former Mayor Democrito “Boy Daku” Plaza.

Plaza has vowed to exhaust all efforts to close down the radio station because of alleged violations in the provisions of the mayor's permit, such as non-compliance with conditions of its Environment Compliance Certificate, violations of zoning ordinances, and non-renewal of its Temporary Use Permit.

Noel Libres, vice president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines chapter here, said Plaza's statement was a direct attack on the integrity of the court and the entire judicial system of the country.

Libres said Plaza could be cited for indirect contempt of court for her “baseless” and “malicious” statement against Tomaneng.

He challenged the mayor to present pieces of evidence to prove her allegations. ***Franklin Caliguid and Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

11 radio stations allowed to operate

CAUAYAN CITY—The National Telecommunications Commission has lifted the suspension of operations of 11 radio stations of Newsounds Broadcasting Network, an affiliate of Bombo Radyo-Philippines, pending a hearing of the case.

In a two-page order on Friday, Commissioner Eliseo Rio Jr. and Deputy Commissioner Kathleen Heceta acted on the motion for reconsideration filed by NBN.

The third NTC member, Deputy Commissioner Armi Jane Borje, did not sign the order as she was on leave.

The NBN filed the motion after the NTC issued a show-cause order and suspended the operations of its radio stations.

These stations are dxFC-FM in Marbel, South Cotabato; dyTX-FM in Tacloban City; dxIF-AM in Cagayan de Oro City; dyWR-AM in Tacloban City; dzNG-AM in Naga City; dzVX-AM in Daet, Camarines Norte; dzSO-AM in San Fernando, La Union; dzVR-AM in Ilocos Norte; dzNC-AM in Cauayan City; dxIV-FM in Iligan City; and dwIC-FM in Tuguegarao City.

It was not immediately known why the dyCX-AM radio in San Jose, Antique, was not included in the March 1 order although it was one of those mentioned in the Feb. 13 show-cause order.

NBN executives said the network has applied with the NTC for renewal of its licenses or permits since 1996, but no hearing has been held. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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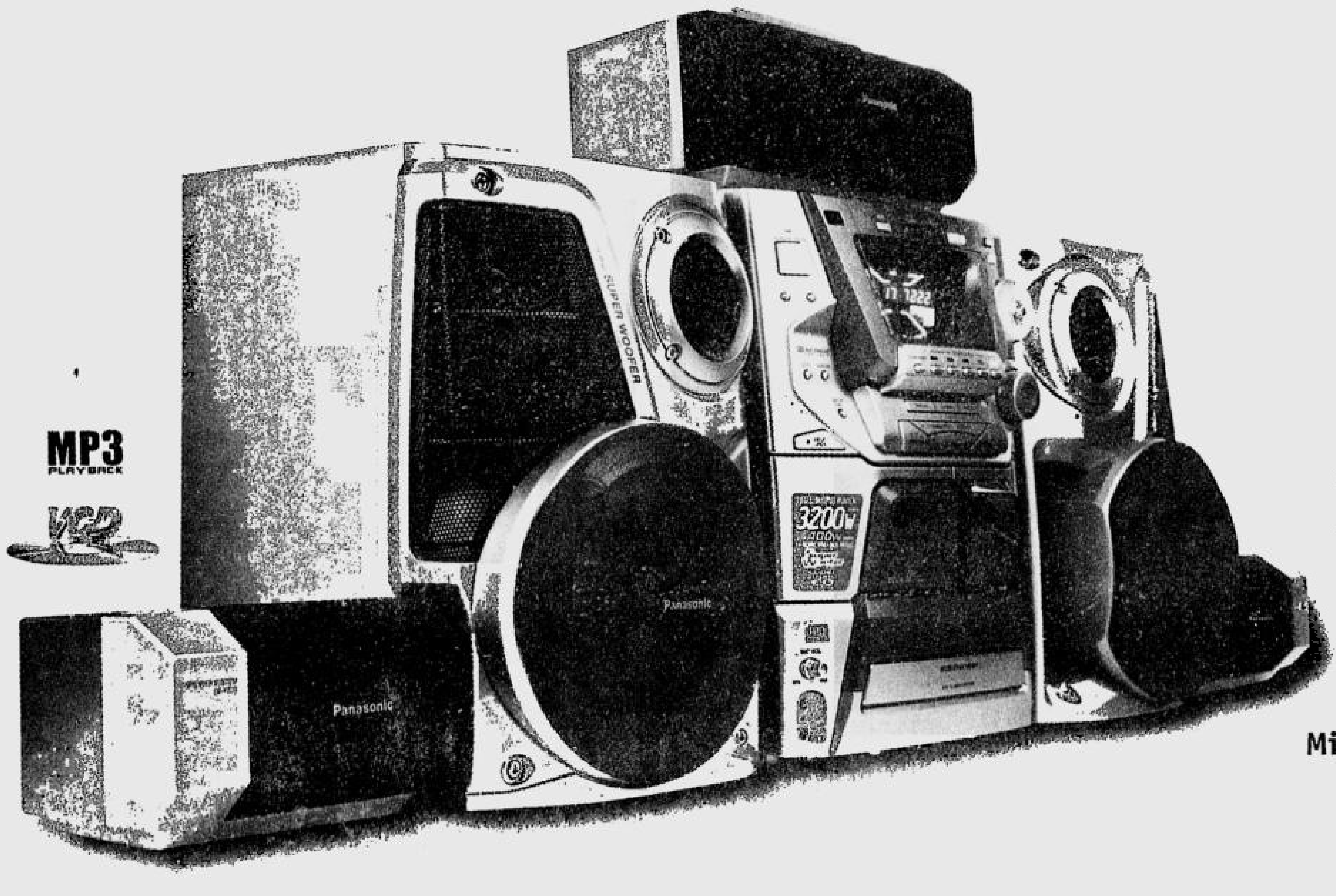

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Still no trial for 29 Moro detainees nabbed during Erap's 'all-out war'

By Ferdinand O. Zuasola
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MATI, Davao Oriental—They have been detained much earlier than deposed President Joseph Estrada whose declaration of an "all-out war" against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) two years ago sent them to jail.

But unlike Estrada, the 29 detainees staged a series of hunger strikes to dramatize their demand to the government to provide them a trial court judge and a government prosecutor.

They have been languishing in jail without a court trial. Frustrated, one of the detainees, Ronnie Constantinpla, who is accused of being involved in the ambush of 10 soldiers in July 2000, escaped last Feb. 23.

"They are not listening to our pleas perhaps because we are Muslims," Ustadz Rosil Lagbawan said.

The detainees were arrested in Tarragona town at the height of the military offensive war against the MILF guerrillas. Tarragona was then the site of heavy clashes between government soldiers and the rebels.

Many of them minors, the detainees are facing, multiple murder and robbery-in-band charges.

Provincial prosecutor Pableo Baldoza had earlier told the INQUIRER that the delay in the hearing of the cases was due to the lack of a trial court judge.

Baldoza inhibited himself from the case because the 29 Moro detainees were all suspects in an ambush attempt against him in Tarragona in June 2000.

Late last year, Diosdado Yamas was appointed judge of the Regional Trial Court Branch 5 here before which the cases of detainees have been lodged.

Davao del Norte prosecutor Ruben Pasamonte was assigned to handle their cases. But he told the judge that his "authority was limited only to the investigation and not to the prosecution of the cases."

This has further delayed the resolution of the cases as the court could not start hearings until a government prosecutor is appointed.

Early this month, the Department of Justice appointed Prosecutor Benjamin Pacetes to handle the case.

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Group opposes Bohol reclamation project

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—A broad multi-sectoral coalition has been formed to oppose the proposed P1.6-billion Tagbilaran Bay Reclamation Project (TBRP).

The Concerned Coalition Against Rehabilitation (C-CARE) warned that the TBRP will destroy marine resources of the city, noting experts' remarks that it will affect water current, with the pollutants reaching the nearby resort island of Panglao.

Moreover, C-CARE said, the project would veer away from the province's economic and socio-cultural thrust.

Proponents have claimed that the reclaimed land will provide areas for commercial and industrial use as part of efforts to decongest the central business district.

Aside from solving the traffic problem there, it will be a "catalyst for development," they said. It will solve the sewerage problem as the project will provide sewerage and treatment facilities, they added.

Of the total reclamation area of 59 hectares of land, the private consortium will get 28.91 hectares or 49 percent. The government will receive 30.09 hectares or 51 percent, to be divided between the city government (8.4 hectares) and the Public Estates Authority (3.6 hectares) under a 70-30 percent sharing scheme.

Mayor Jose Torralba strongly supports the project, which was shelved before the 2001 elections. The C-CARE advocates said the project was not pursued to prevent it from becoming an election issue.

The C-CARE argued that the project would not solve the traffic problem since vehicles will still use the main Carlos P. Garcia Avenue and the causeway.

It contended that there was no need for a reclamation area since there is no commercial buildup yet in about 68 percent of the city's land area.

Lawyer Esther Gertrude Biliran, C-CARE spokesperson, said the coalition is a multisectoral alliance of non-government and people's organizations, church people, students, youths, professionals and women's groups.

Biliran said the project proponents were claiming that the TBRP was being revived because of favorable economic and political situation in the country.

However, she said, nothing much has changed since the time before the 2001 elections, especially since the project still poses environmental risks.

She disputed the mayor's claim that those against the project comprise a "noisy minority."

"We can be as noisy as we can get, but certainly we are not the minority," she added.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern section of the country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI32° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 24° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 18°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 21°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/03/08/02

ROUNDUP

Agriculturist appointed

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Civil Service Commission has upheld the appointment of provincial agriculturist Liza Quirog whom Gov. Erico Aumentado refused to accept as part of his official family. Quirog was appointed by Aumentado's predecessor, Rene Relampagos. In a Feb. 22 decision, CSC chair Karina Constantino-David and Commissioners Jose Erestain Jr. and Waldemar Valmores said that 'a careful evaluation" of the circumstances behind the appointment showed "the absence of the element of hurriedness on the part of (Relampagos) which characterizes a midnight appointment."

Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

IRRI medical aid

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—The International Rice Research Institute said it has extended medical services to 1,263 patients in different villages in Laguna. Of this total, 351 patients were tested for blood sugar level and 77 for cholesterol and triglyceride, 278 were ECG patients, 403 were patients for medical consultations and 154 for blood typing. The IRRI reported that it has also put up medical clinics worth P186,942 in Barangays Putho-Tuntungin, Paciano, Rizal, Masaya, Tranca, Sta. Cruz and Puypuy.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Powerful bomb defused

MONKAYO, Compostela Valley—Ordnance experts in Southern Mindanao recovered a powerful homemade bomb near a bridge in Sitio Liboton, Barangay Baylo here on Tuesday. The Explosive Ordnance Device (EOD) team defused the bomb, which was made up of a 25-kg Super Kalan container with two blasting caps inserted in a 25-mm superdynamite as booster. The explosive was found by a local resident at 9 a.m. Tuesday but was defused only at 4:30 p.m. when the EOD team led by SPO3 Miguel Vicente arrived.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Land for hybrid rice

BATAC, Ilocos Norte—To realize the government's agricultural modernization program, President Macapagal-Arroyo launched the propagation of hybrid rice. The Mariano Marcos State University here received 1,000 hectares of land in grant for the program. Ms Macapagal designated MMSU as the government's monitoring arm in its pilot program of developing hybrid rice in Northern Luzon, noting the university's excellence on agricultural research. With the land grant, the MMSU will become the center of scientific monitoring of the hybrid rice in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and the Cordillera.

Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bayan Muna leader missing

CABANATUAN CITY—The wives of the abducted organizer of the party-list Bayan Muna and his friend appealed to authorities to intensify their search for their husbands who have been missing for a month now. Cristina Orcino and Aleli Batnag-Ayroso are hoping that their husbands, Juan Orcino and Honorio Ayroso, are still alive. Cristina and Aleli were joined by some 100 members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Central Luzon and the Bayan Muna in airing their plea to the 7th Infantry Division in Fort Magsaysay, Palayan City, 71st Infantry Battalion in San Jose City and to Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Ex-workers air appeal

MARIVELES, Bataan—Some 200 former employees of the Bataan Economic Zone (BEZ), who were forced to retire from the service following a reorganization at the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), are pressing for the release of their cost-of-living-allowance. They said they were told by Peza officials that the Department of Budget and Management had questioned the payment of their allowance because these had been integrated in their salaries.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

68 new school buildings

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Sixty-eight new school buildings and a modern provincial jail will be inaugurated in the province this month. Funding for the new buildings was covered by a P300-million budget of the provincial government. The buildings are expected to accommodate elementary and high school students in June. The new prison facility will have computer units programmed to detect the entry of illegal drugs and weapons.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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Probe Napocor auditors —bishop

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A Catholic bishop here has urged National Power Corp. officials to investigate members of an internal audit team that supposedly cleared the Napocor regional manager here of graft and abuse charges.

Bishop Ramon Villena of the Bayombong diocese said he was dismayed over the alleged attempt of the audit team to cover up the charges of irregularities against Marcelo Ganaden, regional manager of the Napocor's Transmission Corp. (Transco) in Cagayan Valley.

Oscar de la Cruz, the team's chief auditor, could not be reached for comment.

In October last year, the team, composed of De la Cruz, Erwin Reyes and Rogelio de Leon, conducted an "operations audit" on a petition filed by around 40 Transco employees in the region.

In the petition, the employees accused Ganaden of allegedly causing the "unjust" and "arbitrary" relief or transfer of workers, as well as of cornering project contracts in the power firm.

"They (auditors) visited me and assured me of a fair and impartial investigation of the charges," said Villena, whose diocese covers Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino.

"I am deeply disturbed to know that your auditors did not live up to their words but became instrumental in the distortion of truth and exchanged the truth for lie."

He added: "While truth hurts, I am morally bound to uphold it especially (when) it involves lowly employees." ***Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Estrada suffers another legal blow

From page A1

was facing.

"On the ground of double jeopardy, the arguments of the accused fail to convince us of its presence," the three-member special division said in a written ruling.

Jeopardy exists if "the accused has been convicted or acquitted, or the case is dismissed or terminated without the express consent of the accused," the justices said.

Prosecutors allege Estrada had committed perjury when he executed in 1999 a deposition listing his assets at P37.8 million in his statement of assets and liabilities. All public officials are required to make their holdings public.

The perjury case was the fourth charge filed against Estrada by state prosecutors. He is also on trial for another count of perjury, illegal use of alias, and plunder, which is a capital offense.

The ruling came amid a brewing political crisis triggered by his dismissal on Feb. 27 of all nine private counsels and his defiance of court orders.

He has since rejected all de officio counsels tapped for him by the court, and instructed his former lawyers not to turn over evidence to or cooperate with their successors.

Raymond Fortun, spokesperson for Estrada, said the ex-President would comply with the court order requiring his attendance in future hearings, including his March 15 arraignment, "just to see what the court is doing."

Erap rejects Jurado, Ongkiko

But he maintained that Estrada would not engage the services of any de officio counsel, including the three private counsels appointed by the court on Wednesday, namely Rodolfo Jimenez, Mario Ongkiko and Irene Jurado.

"He will just be there attending but not necessarily listening. He will not make objections or do cross-examination for himself," Fortun told the INQUIRER.

Besides Estrada's blanket refusal to get new lawyers, "there are other circumstances we can cite for rejecting" two of the three newly appointed lawyers, Fortun said.

"Jurado is the mother of Senior Ombudsman Prosecutor Cicero Jurado. Her son may not be involved directly in the Estrada case but he is with the Office of the Ombudsman which is prosecuting Estrada," he said.

Jurado accepted her appointment as Estrada's de officio counsel. "If we're appointed by the Sandiganbayan, we cannot refuse," she said.

Ongkiko, meanwhile, "was involved in the Estrada Resign Movement," Fortun said.

But Ongkiko, who will submit his position in court today on whether he will accept the appointment, denied having been involved in the anti-Estrada drive.

The veteran trial lawyer said he was just consulted by members of the House prosecution team during Estrada's aborted impeachment trial, and did not take part in any anti-Estrada campaign.

"They just tossed one or two questions on purely legal matters and then I faxed my opinion. That's all," he told the INQUIRER on the phone.

"I'll include that in what I submit in court (today) and it's up to the court whether that constitutes conflict of interest," he said.

PAO lawyers begin work

Also yesterday, one of Estrada's four de officio lawyers from the Public Attorneys Office said they had begun poring over documents pertaining to the second perjury charge and Estrada's motion to travel.

All they could do was photocopy the documents at the Sandiganbayan as Estrada disallowed the turnover of evidence from the dismissed defense panel, said lawyer Joefferson Toribio.

Almost a week after their appointment, the PAO lawyers have yet to send any communication to Estrada since he still has time until March 15 to hire a new set of lawyers.

The PAO lawyers are also awaiting who will be their private counterparts "so we can coordinate our moves first," Toribio said.

Warning

State prosecutors asked the Sandiganbayan yesterday to issue a warning to the deposed President's former lawyers for undermining the integrity of the justice system before the media.

In a motion and manifestation, they chided the dismissed Estrada lawyers for having "drumbeated that the Sandiganbayan is railroading the cases of their clients."

They noted that the lawyers continued to accuse the court of bias in media interviews even after their dismissal as counsels on Feb. 27.

The motion particularly cited remarks attributed to Rene Saguisag and Fortun.

Saguisag was faulted for uttering lines such as, "We don't believe we can get justice in this court" and "This case is being railroaded."

Fortun drew flak for "trivializing the efforts" of the Sandiganbayan by saying at a press forum that Estrada would not accept any court-appointed lawyer "whether from PAO, *ampaw* or *siopao*."

"Not content," the motion said, "Fortun added that the special (Sandiganbayan) division (for Estrada's cases) is created not to dispense justice but to exact vengeance."

"In a separate instance," the motion said, "Fortun cursed the honorable members of the court, saying: '*Sana tamaan ng kidlat ang mga justices na yan* (May the justices be struck by lightning).'"

The motion noted that these remarks had seen print, particularly in the INQUIRER.

The prosecutors said all lawyers were barred under Code 1.02 of their Code of Professional Responsibility from engaging in "activities aimed at lessening confidence in the judicial system."

The remarks cited in their pleading "are not isolated but follow instead a pattern, which if unchecked will unduly erode people's faith in the judicial system," they stressed.

At the Supreme Court, its spokesperson chided Estrada for insinuating that the high court created the Sandiganbayan division to hear his plunder case so as to expedite his conviction in collusion with the Macapagal administration.

"The former President has been badly misinformed by a grossly uninformed source. First, it is not even a special division. It has not been tasked with going beyond its jurisdiction," Ismael Khan said.

He said that even if Estrada continued to waive his right to defend himself, the prosecution must prove the former President's guilt beyond reasonable doubt. Otherwise, he shall be acquitted by the Sandiganbayan. "It is still the prosecution's job to prove its case against former President Estrada. The prosecution is required not to rely on the weakness or absence of his defense," Khan said.

Khan said that contrary to Estrada's allegations, the oversight committee of the Supreme Court recommended the creation of the division to safeguard his rights.

"He has the constitutional right to a speedy disposition of the criminal charges against him since he is being detained," Khan told the INQUIRER.

Khan said no collusion between the administration and the Supreme Court could have resulted in the creation of the "Estrada" division since it was the Sandiganbayan that filed a petition before the Supreme Court that led to the creation of a new division. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora and AFP***

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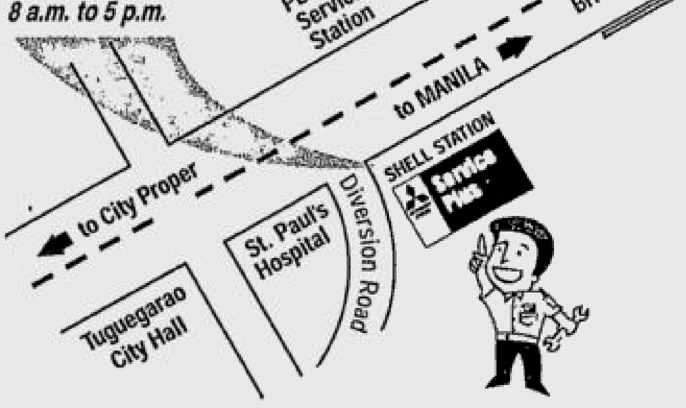

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US hostages shown on TV airing captors' grievances

From page A1

Burnham reading out a statement listing five reasons the bandits were "targeting US, European and other Western nations."

Among the Abu Sayyaf gripes was Western indifference to the fate of persecuted Muslim's around the world and US "support to the Philippine government's illegal and immoral annexation and occupation of Muslim lands" in Mindanao.

The list also included Washington's support for the "Israeli occupation of Palestine," sanctions against Iraq and Libya, and the "desecration" of Saudi Arabia through the presence of Western troops and business interests.

Gracia Burnham sat impassively beside him in the footage while three hooded men brandishing assault rifles stood behind the couple, surrounded by indistinct trees and vegetation.

The two, dressed in T-shirts and pants, looked emaciated and tired but did not show signs of being mistreated.

One of the stations said it did not know when the latest footage was shot, adding a "mercenary" journalist apparently sold it to a Western media outfit from which the station bought the clip.

The Abu Sayyaf bandits have been actively trying to sell footage of their latest hostages to journalists, often sending intermediaries to the press.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said that the video was an apparent attempt to get support from international terror groups like the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

Sighting

The military yesterday reported sighting members of the Abu Sayyaf group holding the Burnham couple and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Southern Command, said the group was seen in the outskirts of Maluso town.

"We believe that these are (members) of the security force of the main group, and this is now the subject of our operation," Cimatu told defense reporters by telephone.

The sighting was reportedly made shortly after Defense Secretary Reyes visited a jungle base in the Sampinit-Maluso area.

Ros Manlangit, spokesperson of the Department of National Defense, quoted Reyes as telling Cimatu: "You have the support of the government . . . There is no reason why you cannot solve the problem quickly."

In Camp Aguinaldo, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan clarified reports that a Basilan town mayor had taken hostage wives and relatives of the bandits.

Adan said the supposed hostages were taken into government custody on the strength of arrest warrants issued by a local court.

Maluso Mayor Sakib Salajin was earlier reported to have taken eight persons hostage in an effort to force the release of Yap and the Burnhams.

Adan, however, said that 10 persons were arrested on Feb. 22 in Maluso, and that Salajin and his men merely helped in the procedure.

He said that the 10 were picked up for their alleged participation in the abduction of Golden Harvest plantation workers last June, and that they had been taken to the provincial jail in Isabela.

But the Associated Press quoted Salajin as saying that the arrests were made to pressure the bandits to surrender or release their hostages.

"If we get their wives, their resolve will weaken because our planning is to mentally torture (the bandits)," said Salajin, who said he helped plan the arrests.

Those arrested denied involvement with the Abu Sayyaf and said they were not aware of any charges against them.

Noria Arastam, a 30-year-old pregnant mother, said her husband was a fisherman who was out at sea when Salajin's bodyguards arrested her.

Hasan Talaber, a fisherman who claims being a member of the local militia, denied having helped the bandits.

"I have not given even a small grain of rice to the Abu Sayyaf," he said. ***Reports from AFP, AP and Martin Marfil***

REUTERS

AN American soldier sweeps the crowd with his binoculars during the Basilan Day celebration in Isabela, the capital town.

US Special Forces leader adopted as son of Basilan

From page A1

cise aimed at helping the Philippine military wipe out the Abu Sayyaf.

The bandits have been holding an American couple and a Filipino nurse hostage for the past nine months in the Basilan jungles.

The provincial government cited Maxwell for showing "the highest degree of professionalism" in working with the Philippine military and his "noteworthy display of strong leadership" that has won wide support for the US Special Forces.

Maxwell removed his green beret as Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar replaced it with the Yakan cloth headgear. The two officials then posed briefly before cameramen.

Maxwell later removed his new hat and again wore his green beret before thanking the cheering crowd.

"We hope that our presence here can be a small help to the people of Basilan," he said.

"We have seen democracy in action here since we have come to this island . . . and we are proud to try to help in the work—hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder—with our brothers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The Abu Sayyaf bandits, who have been linked to the al-Qaida terror network, seized dozens of hostages in a kidnapping rampage last year that began with a May 27 raid on Palawan's Dos Palmas Resort where they abducted 20 people, including three Americans.

The Abu Sayyaf brought their captives to Basilan where the bandits kidnapped more hostages in the province, including nurse Ediborah Yap. She and American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham of Wichita, Kansas, are the Abu Sayyaf's only remaining hostages.

Most of the hostages either escaped or were released for ransom. A few were killed, including Guillermo Sobero of Corona, California, who was beheaded.

The military has launched a massive operation to rescue the three hostages, deploying more than 5,000 troops to hunt down fewer that 100 bandits.

The US Special Forces are expected to help Filipino soldiers improve their tactics and night operations using sophisticated communications equipment and gadgets. ***AP***

I paid ₱1M, hostage tells lawmakers . . .

From page A1

The House has conducted an exhaustive inquiry into the Lamitan incident, but yesterday was the first time that someone admitted paying ransom to the Abu Sayyaf himself.

Romero, Santos, Recio, his wife and son, and Montealegre were among those abducted by the Abu Sayyaf in March last year from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan. The group was taken hostage and brought to Basilan.

Earlier in the hearing, De Castro testified that she saw an aide of Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, then head of the Army contingent that engaged the Abu Sayyaf in the June 2 incident, pluck five P1,000 bills from a black attaché case "stacked with P1,000 bills" after Romero was released.

Osmeña, who announced last year that ransom was paid for Romero's release, then produced the attaché case to guide De Castro in her recollection.

Dominguez challenged De Castro's claim and said all he had with him on that day was P66,000 in a canvas bag, which he termed "operating money."

JOAN BONDOC

WITNESS Fe de Castro, a nurse, recounts seeing an attaché case "really full" of money.

He said the P5,000 that his aide got from the bag was intended to "pay for the medicines of any casualty."

Go-betweens

Also at the hearing, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said two men closely identified with President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao served as "go-betweens" in the payment of ransom for the release of the Dos Palmas hostages.

Lacson named the two as Jorge Baviera and Stef Saño and described them as "people very close to people in government."

Lacson said he had spoken with one of the ex-hostages and two of her relatives Wednesday night and was told that they paid P4.7 million to secure her release.

The ex-hostage is to testify before the joint congressional hearing behind closed doors, and "not within Senate premises."

Lacson said Baviera and Saño were known to be close associates of Tiglao and were often seen on the Malacañang grounds.

"Baviera was even seen being waved at by President Macapagal-Arroyo," the senator said, adding:

"So what they're saying that no ransom has been paid is an outright lie. Government knew all along."

Asked to comment on his supposed link with the alleged ransom payoffs, Tiglao said: "It's hogwash. These issues have been raised before."

Tiglao, who will assume the post of press secretary next month, also said he suspected that Lacson was trying to frame him to derail his eventual confirmation proceedings before the bicameral Commission on Appointments.

Tiglao said he was not denying that he knew Baviera and Saño, who, like himself, are former anti-Marcos activists and members of the First Quarter Storm Foundation.

"But I am not and have not been involved in any ransom negotiations," he said.

Lacson said Baviera was even caught in the video footage that recorded Romero's supposed escape.

"What was he doing there?" Lacson said.

The senator also said Baviera and Saño "facilitated" such details as "how much will be paid or how this can be done," and "established the communication link between the relatives of hostages and the Abu Sayyaf."

He said Tiglao had once interfered in his own efforts to secure the release of the American couple Martin and Gracia Burnham from their captors.

"(Tiglao) knows that there will be ransom paid, then he even accused me of being the one negotiating for the payment," Lacson said. "He is the incoming press secretary and he has a lot of explaining to do."

By courier

Buddy Recio said he paid the P1-million ransom through a "courier" last Aug. 30, but that the Abu Sayyaf released Montealegre only on Nov. 15.

"That was P1 million, plus sanitized press releases (to show that I paid P5 million)," he said.

He admitted that there were "go-betweens" in the negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf, but he refused to identify them.

"This is the first time that somebody admitted that he had paid ransom," said Rep. Prospero Pichay, chair of the House committee on national defense.

Recio said that he pleaded with Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya to free his son RJ, and that he did not have to pay a centavo to secure the boy's release.

He said he and his wife Divine were themselves able to secure their release from the bandit group after they were wounded in the firefight that followed the Abu Sayyaf escape from the Dr. Jose Torres Memorial Hospital.

"I was wounded in the leg while my wife was shot in the waist, so we couldn't stand up," Recio said.

He said that when it became apparent that they would just slow down the fleeing bandits, a certain Fatima told them to "shout that you are hostages, shout for help."

As for Montealegre, "they ordered her to pick herself up and leave with the (Abu Sayyaf)," Recio said.

Green light

Quoting an informant, Osmeña earlier claimed that the ransom payments had the green light from Malacañang.

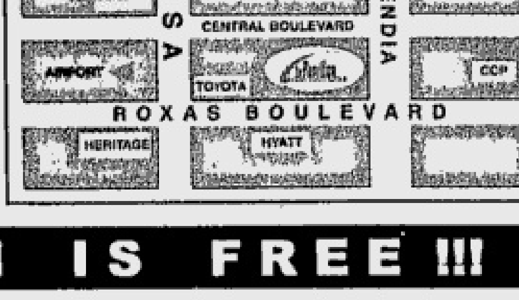
The names of Baviera and Saño floated last year following reports of ransom payments for the release of the Dos Palmas hostages.

At that time, Tiglao lamented that the opposition was using the name of his friend, Baviera, in its continuing attacks against the administration.

Asked yesterday whether Lacson was setting him up for his eventual appearance before the Commission on Appointments, Tiglao said: "That's what I see."

He said he had not seen Baviera, much less Saño, since he became spokesperson of the President.

"I believe Mr. Lacson is again trying to raise baseless issues against this administration," he said.



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ADMISSION IS FREE !!!

Lamitan folk honor Ediborah as a heroine

From page A1

her in her struggle in the jungle.

It is a little-known fact that Yap is a very strong woman, according to former hostage Sheila Tabuñag.

"I never saw her cry from the day we were (taken) hostage. We went through all kinds of danger, but she kept her strength," Tabuñag said of the woman she calls "Mader (mother) Debbie."

Tabuñag was also snatched on June 2 by the Abu Sayyaf from the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital, where Yap worked. She was recovered by the military in Sumisip town on Nov. 13, along with Angie Montealegre and Maria Fe Rosadeno, who were among those taken from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on March 27.

Of the Dos Palmas group, American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham are still being held hostage along with Yap.

Tabuñag said the Abu Sayyaf was still insisting on the P1 million it demanded last year in exchange for Yap's release.

She said that she delivered a ransom note written by Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya to the management of the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital as soon as she walked free, and that Sabaya recently sent an emissary, Sonny Teng, to follow up on the payment.

Teng, 19, was arrested last week while stalking the former hostages, according to Armed Forces' Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu.

But hospital administrator Antonio Aguillera said there was no way they could raise the ransom demand.

"We don't have that much," he told the INQUIRER. "In fact, we cannot even buy equipment worth P200,000. What more P1 million?"

Abu Nidal, a senior Abu Sayyaf leader, told Australian television that they were also awaiting the payment of the $2-million ransom demand they had sent to the Burnhams' relatives.

Nidal, who also serves as a personal bodyguard of Abu Sayyaf chief Khadaffy Janjalani, said they would behead the couple if the demand was not met.

Skills

David Pamaran, Yap's brother, said he could not understand why the bandits would insist on the pay-off when they had benefited much from his sister's skills as a nurse.

"Debbie is being used by these bandits to treat their wounds and meet all their medical needs in the jungle, and to assist the sickly Burnham couple," he said.

Pamaran said he had learned that Yap had a chance to escape last year when their captors took a detour to Barangay Maligue in Isabela City.

"But because of her commitment as a medical practitioner, she chose to stay behind with the Burnhams," he said.

He also said his sister's strength could be seen in her having stood as both father and mother to her children—Jonathan, 22; Jay Anthony, 18; Mary Anne, 16; and Lawrence William, 6.

Yap is separated from her husband Jose.

Pamaran said that instead of complying with the ransom demand, he had offered himself as a "guide" to the American soldiers now taking part in the RP-US Balikatan 02-1.

"If ever they decide to rescue the three captives, I'm willing to risk my life," he said.

But he pointed out that he was willing to guide only the American soldiers. "Not the Filipino soldiers, because some of them are crooks," he said.

Comfort

Tabuñag said that during her six months in captivity, she experienced eight fierce encounters between the Abu Sayyaf and the military.

"In those days, I was so worried for our lives and all I could do was cry," she said. "When I became very desperate, Mader Debbie would (comfort) me."

She said Yap would hug her, wipe her tears and reassure her that "everything will be all right for all of us."

"I was away from my family and longing for them, and it was Mader Debbie who helped me endure the hardships in the jungle," she said.

Tabuñag said that despite being afflicted with high blood pressure and being a hostage herself, Yap never forgot that she was a nurse.

"She attended to the needs (of the Burnham couple), such as conducting a regular medical checkup on them," Tabuñag recalled. "She treated their swollen feet and also comforted them when they become desperate."

She said Yap treated her for bullet wounds in August, and even attended to the bandits wounded in clashes with the military.

Yap's mother, Fatima, said her advanced age would not prevent her from rescuing her daughter, if the authorities would let her.

"I told them to take me along in the operation," Fatima said in the local tongue. "I'm willing to die to rescue my poor girl. She has had a difficult life. I want to unburden her."

Fatima said that while waiting for the approval of her request to join the rescue operation, she would continue to tend to Yap's four children.

With a report from Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Pinoy couple in deep trouble over fake Guccis

From page A1

Jay Calzada Pintor, 45, and Agnes Inventor, 36, to three years imprisonment suspended for four years, court spokesperson Mitsuko Ozawa said.

Pintor, a US citizen born and raised in the Philippines, is stationed at the US navy base in Yokosuka, about 45-km southwest of Tokyo.

Judge Yasuo Kobayashi also ordered each to pay a fine of 500,000 yen ($3,700), as well as a total of 11.88 million yen ($89,300) in unpaid customs taxes.

Under the US-Japan Status-of-Forces agreement, mail operated for US military personnel is exempt from Japanese customs inspection. But private mail is subject to inspection.

The shipments to Pintor and Inventor, all marked "private," contained 350 counterfeit items including suits and other apparel bearing fake Louis Vuitton and Gucci labels.

Prosecutors said the products were sent from South Korea between Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, 2000 and later sold at a Tokyo store owned by Inventor.

Prosecutors also said that from March 2000 to May last year, the couple also bought some 8,000 other items duty free at the Yokosuka base for resale to a Tokyo importer, ducking about 4.87 million yen ($36,600) in Japanese taxes.

AP

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0047, Series of 2002

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Torre shares top spot

SAN FERNANDO, La Union—A day after yielding the solo leadership, Grandmaster Eugene Torre outmaneuvered NM Yves Ranola in 68 moves of a Sicilian to regain a share of the lead after seven rounds in the 2002 La Union Chess Open Championship here.

PBL aspirants down to 36

ONLY 36 out of a total of 140 aspirants who attended the PBL Rookie Camp impressed the PBL coaches yesterday at the Makati Coliseum. The tryout was conducted by camp directors Jing Ruiz of Shark, Blu assistant coach Pat Aquino, Kutitap assistant coach Monel Kallos and Ateneo assistant coach Sandy Arespacochaga.

What's your beef with Bones?

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT was not supposed to be preferred lie during yesterday's first round of the Casino Filipino 87th Philippine Open at Wack Wack. But for some strange reason, that did not materialize. And for a sound reason, Bones Floro was fuming up to late afternoon yesterday.

"I had ruled against it," said Bones, the tournament director. "The rains came, yes, but Wack Wack held its ground. I even proved it when I drove my golf cart at the perceived soggiest portions of the course. The course was perfectly all right."

A Korean referee from the Asian PGA had apparently overturned Bones' ruling—alas, without Bones knowing about it.

"After I had made my decision not to allow the preferred lie rule, I drove around the course to do other business," said Bones. "Later in the day, I was told my decision had been ignored. That was unfair, of course. What am I tournament director for?"

Because of the preferred lie rule (winter rules to other golfers), Frankie Miñoza was almost assessed two strokes.

Frankie had marked, lifted and cleaned his ball on the fairway of No. 2. He re-placed it to not exactly where he had lifted it from. Another player pointed this out to the rulesmen, arguing that Miñoza should be penalized two strokes for failing to re-place the ball to its original lie.

Before Frankie signed his scorecard, he presented his case to the rulesmen in a hastily-called conference at a Wack Wack function room. Verdict: Frankie Miñoza not guilty.

Said Frankie: "The rulesmen got confused somewhat with their rule."

The rulesmen had a local rule adopted for yesterday's round: "A ball lying on a closely-mown area through the green may, without penalty, be moved or may be lifted, cleaned and re-placed where it originally lay, but not nearer the hole and not in a hazard or on a putting green. A player may move or place his ball once and after the ball has been so moved or placed, it is in play."

Frankie had re-placed his ball maybe a millimeter away from its original lie.

"There was no infraction there," said Butch Brodett, spokesmen for the rulesmen. "He got the benefit of equity. If the rule had been worded as to end at 'where it originally lay,' maybe Frankie could be at fault. The line 'but not nearer the hole' saved him. That's where the confusion arose."

Moral of the story: Listen to Bones and the tournament will never be in disarray.

For, indeed, what's he tournament director for?

■

The Formula 1 season is on. And here's a bonus for you, F1 fans, courtesy of Globe F1. Text "F1" to 2333 and you'll get the happy surprise of your life. Try "F1 Broadcast" and there's some more surprises in store for you. With some luck, you might get to fly to the Malaysian Grand Prix for free on March 17 at Kuala Lumpur's state-of-the-art Sepang International Circuit. I wish to congratulate early winners Nono Felipe of Antipolo and Sidney Corro of Cubao.

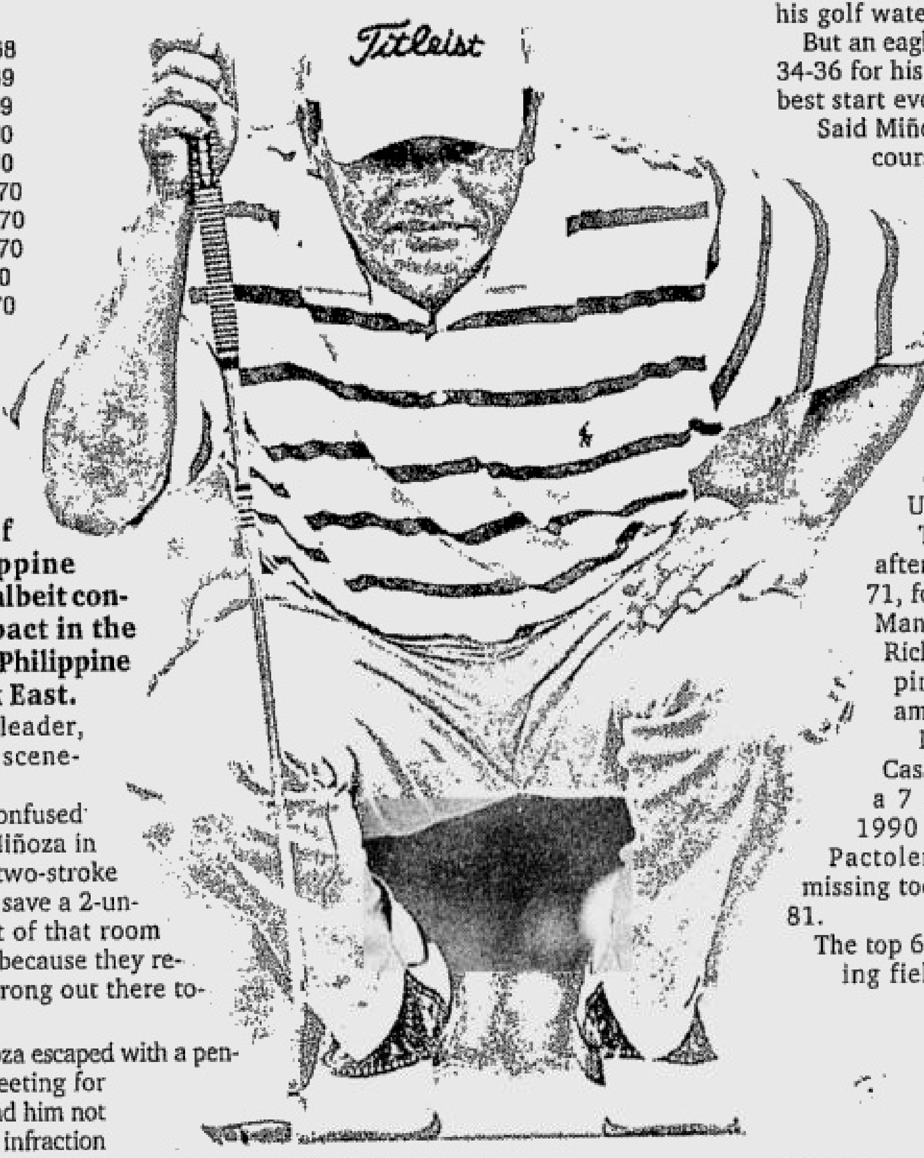
CASINO FILIPINO RP OPEN

Gibson leads Miñoza by 2

By **Al S. Mendoza**

THE LEADERS

Rick Gibson	(Can)	—68
Kim Sang-ki	(Kor)	—69
Angelo Que	(Phi)	—69
Frankie Miñoza	(Phi)	—70
T. Takahashi	(Jap)	—70
Soe Kway N.	(Myn)	—70
Greg Hanrahan	(USA)	—70
Kyi Hla Han	(Myn)	—70
Hsu Mong-nan	(Twn)	—70
Lam Chin bing	(Sin)	—70



MIÑOZA studies his line of putt.

ROMY HOMILLADA

AN almost forgotten Canadian married to a Filipina took the lead before Frankie Miñoza reintroduced himself yesterday to Philippine golf with a modest, albeit confusion-marred, impact in the Casino Filipino 87th Philippine Open at Wack Wack East.

Miñoza wasn't the leader, but he was the day's scene-stealer.

"The rulesmen got confused with the rules," said Miñoza in jest after a perceived two-stroke penalty was dashed to save a 2-under-par 70. "I got out of that room free from any penalty because they realized I did nothing wrong out there today."

The 42-year-old Miñoza escaped with a penalty after rulesmen, meeting for almost 30 minutes, found him not guilty of committing an infraction when he re-placed his ball to a place not exactly to where his ball had been lifted from.

Yesterday's Round 1 was declared preferred lie due to dawn rains that made some portions of Wack Wack soggy.

Rick Gibson, the sweet-swinging Canadian who has called Manila home since he married Josephine Garcia many years back, fired a 4-under-par 68 for a one-shot lead over Korean Kim Sang-ki and Filipino amateur Angelo Que.

The Alabang (Muntinlupa) resident survived some winds in the afternoon after a noontime tee off by reviving that old magic in his short, but straight-as-an-arrow game that became his trademark and chief weapon in topping the Asian Order of Merit in 1991.

Six birdies pushed the one-time RP Masters champion Gibson atop the leaderboard in the series presented by San Miguel Corp. in cooperation with Mitsubishi Motors Philippines whose P1 million donation fattened the kitty to more than P11 million.

Starting birdie-bogey on the 10th and 11th, Gibson, never too long off the tee but never too short in talent in his approaches, rammed home birdies with precise putts, including three-in-row at the front end of his last six holes.

The 42-year-old Miñoza had but one birdie in producing his best first round yet at his golf waterloo that is Wack Wack.

But an eagle-3 on No. 4 gave him nines of 34-36 for his 70 which he described as "my best start ever at Wack Wack."

Said Miñoza: "It's a good start. In this course, a 70 will always be a good start. Boy, I got cut many times here in many past Opens."

Miñoza, seeking a second RP Open since his 1998 victory at Riviera's Couples, was tied with six others two shots back that included two bets from Myanmar, and one each from Taiwan, Japan, the US and Singapore.

The next best-placed Filipino after Miñoza was Tony Lascuna at 71, followed by the ageless Tommy Manotoc at 72 in the company of Richard Sinfuego and another Filipino amateur, Marlon Dizon, among others.

Defending champion Cassius Casas skied to an 81 after making a 7 on the par-3 17th and, like 1990 RP Open champion Robert Pactolerin, appeared in danger of missing today's cut. Pactolerin also shot 81.

The top 65 including ties from the starting field of 159 after today's round will advance in the weekend in this series supported by Hermie Esguerra, Bingo Bonanza, Jacinto Ng, Waterfront, Unilab, Shoemart, Marsman-Drysdale, Hope, Thai Group, Antonio Cabangon-Chua, Bert Bravo's U-Bix, Motorola, Nextel, Taylor Made-adidas, GNC and Caffe Appassionato.

Other scorers:

72—A. Pratumanee, C. Plaphol, J. Johnson, Kim JM, P. del Olmo.

73—Al Cruz, Zheng WG, C. Wilson, T. Pilkadaris, T. Shiraishi, J. Delariarte, I. Edwards, J. Burns, M. Ramayah, U. Park, D. Chia, C. Devers, R. Luna, S. Ishigaki, Mo JK.

74—G. Bondoc, R. Bisera, R. Sasutil, F. Lopez, Joon C., Chang TP, Amandeep J., Kim SY, T. Kennedy, S. Jurgensen, A. Kang, G. Rosales, S. Taylor, J. Oh.

75—E. Ababa, J. Saragoza, J. Steward, M. Siodina, R. Garalde, E. Salvador, Kim HD, Somkiat S., A. Meeks, M. Cunning, Kang WS, C. Villaroman, B. Magada.

76—J. Bernis, R. Gaviola, D. Cruz, R. Antonio, D. Hernandez, R.Cabajar.

LPGA founder dies of cancer

PALM DESERT, California—Alice Bauer, one of the 13 founding members of the LPGA Tour, died Wednesday from complications of colon cancer. She was 74.

Phone Pals nip Realtors

GAME TODAY: (Balanga, Bataan)
5:30 p.m.—Selecta-RP Team vs Purefoods

By **June Navarro**

TALK N Text fended off a fierce Sta. Lucia Realty rally to prevail, 98-96, and earn a piece of the leadership last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

In posting their third win in four games, the Phone Pals are now locked in a five-way tie with Alaska, Red Bull, Purefoods and Hapee-RP Team, while the Realtors dropped to 1-3.

The Phone Pals, who sustained a hot start behind the exploits of Gilbert Demape, Richie Frahm and Gerald Honeycutt to register the win, also took some heat off from a whining American coach Bill Bayno.

Bayno blew his top as he lambasted the referees, accusing them of favoring the Realtors after slapping the Phone Pals with numerous fouls, including two technicals in the first half.

"I never antagonize anybody and in my 17 years of coaching I never attack the referees. All I'm asking is to be treated fairly," said a furious Bayno, who is in a tight legal battle with the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines.

"If they (referees) are taking it against me because I'm an American or because of the BCAP thing, then I'll just pack my things and leave," he added.

Bayno cited the 17 free throws the referees gifted Sta. Lucia in the first half against the Phone Pals' five attempts from the stripe.

But the Phone Pals fought gallantly as Frahm, Honeycutt, Demape, Victor Pablo and Mark Telan gallantly stepped up.

Meanwhile, coach Ryan Gregorio and his Purefoods TJ Hotdogs take on the Selecta-RP Team in an out-of-town game today in Balanga, Bataan.

Scores:

TALK 'N TEXT 98—Honeycutt 24, Frahm 19, Pablo 18, Demape 16, Telan 11, Lago 4, Evans 4, Gonzales 2, Crisano 0.

STA. LUCIA 96—Davis 26, Thomas 26, Mendoza 10, Rodriguez 6, Falcasantos 6, Ortiguerra 6, David 6, Belano 5, Francisco 3, Del Rosario 2, Tan 0.

Quarters: 34-27, 61-51, 86-73, 98-96.

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3rd Prize	Mark Joseph Pado	Samingkil Airwalk
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1st Prize	Alvin Cajulao	Flying Peacock
2nd Prize	Mark Anthony Lucero	Kuwait Flat
3rd Prize	Jerick Edward Toralde	Bird
COLLEGE DIVISION - GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Eugene Mallari	Equal Ethnic Box
2nd Prize	Salvador Espina	Naga Special Borador
3rd Prize	Don David Gumba	Split Box
ADULTS DIVISION - GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Melbert Cajulao	Modern Castle
2nd Prize	Francis Mallari	Chicklides Box
3rd Prize	Isagani Cajulao	Taklop-taklop
COLLEGE DIVISION - FIGURE KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Eugene Mallari	Sky Scrapper Dog
2nd Prize	Darwin Sumang	Morning Butterfly
3rd Prize	Salvador Espina	Higanteng Paro-paro
ADULTS DIVISION - FIGURE KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Cesar Alacar	Airplane
2nd Prize	Francis Mallari	Knight Warrior Owl
3rd Prize	Benjamin Cajulao	Eagle
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Iverson sizzles as 76ers prevail

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson broke the 40-point barrier for the third time in four games Wednesday, scoring 46 to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to an 85-76 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Dikembe Mutombo added 10 points and 13 rebounds for the 76ers, who have defeated the Cavaliers 12 straight times. The defending Eastern Conference champions have won four of their last five games.

Jazz 92, Lakers 84

In Salt Lake City, Karl Malone scored 23 points and John Stockton added 19 on 7-for-12 shooting as Utah beat the Los Angeles Lakers in Kobe Bryant's return from a two-game suspension.

Malone sealed the win by grabbing a 3-pointer with 2 1/2 minutes remaining and the Jazz held on to improve to 2-12 against the top five teams in the Western Conference. Malone has made seven 3-pointers this season.

Shaquille O'Neal scored 28 points and had 12 rebounds for the Lakers, while Bryant scored 26.

Complete results:
Boston 130, Orlando 110; Philadelphia 85, Cleveland 76; Utah 92, L.A. Lakers 84; Milwaukee 92, L.A. Clippers 86; Miami 92, Chicago 87; Phoenix 89, New Jersey 87; Portland 85, Minnesota 78. *AP*

Agassi scores

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona—Andre Agassi of the United States put a stop to a string of upsets when he beat Britain's Greg Rusedski 6-4, 6-4 Wednesday in the Franklin Templeton Tennis Classic.

The win sends Agassi, a three-time Scottsdale champion and the event's top-seeded player, into a quarterfinals match Friday with Argentina's Juan Ignacio Chela, one of the upstarts who eliminated a favorite earlier in the day.

Earlier, Noam Okun of Israel reached his first career quarterfinal by beating No. 6 seed Albert Portas of Spain 7-6 (4), 6-4, and Chela stunned No. 5 seeded Spaniard Alex Corretja 6-4, 7-5.

That left the tournament with Agassi, No. 3 Pete Sampras of the United States and No. 7 seeded Belgian Xavier Malisse among the eight seeded starters. *AP*

US netter ousts Anna

INDIAN WELLS, California—Anna Kournikova took a backward step in her comeback, losing her opening match to American Lilia Osterloh in the Pacific Life Open.

The 20-year-old Russian is trying to rebuild her ranking, once as high as No. 8, after missing most of last season with a stress fracture in her left foot. She didn't help her cause in this tournament, losing 6-1, 6-4 Wednesday.

Another Russian, 14-year-old Maria Sharapova, followed Kournikova onto center court and made her tour debut with a 5-7, 6-2, 6-2 win over German Barbara Rittner. *AP*

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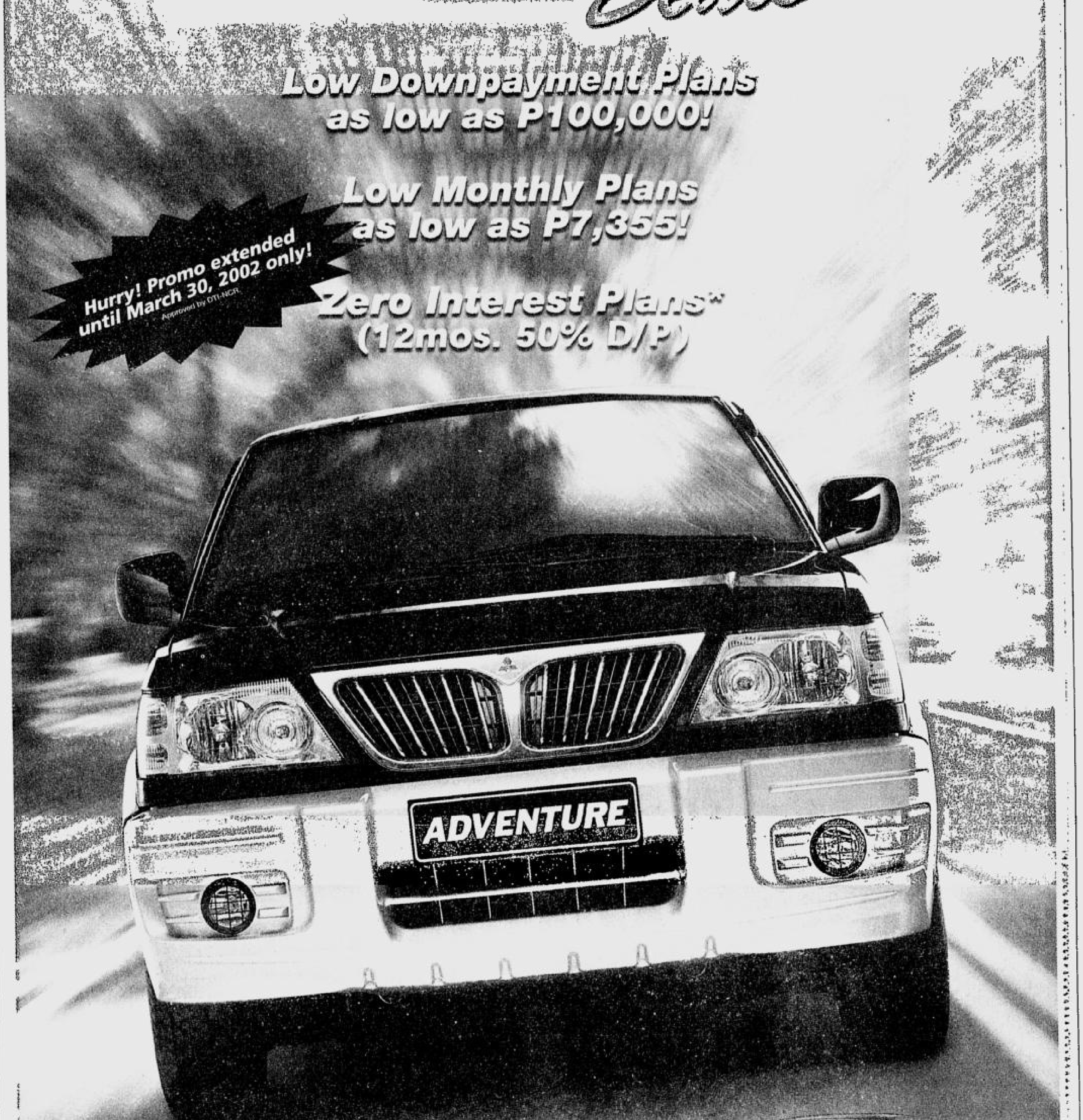
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Diesel M/T	670,000	335,000	*27,917	11,293	8,066
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	352,500	30,364	11,883	8,487
Gas A/T	740,000	370,000	31,871	12,473	8,908
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	360,000	31,010	12,136	8,668
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	385,000	*32,083	12,979	9,270
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	375,000	*31,250	12,642	9,029
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0077 Series of 2002.

Housing plan for athletes up

By Marc Reyes

BUHAIN

NATIONAL athletes "squatting" at the age-old Rizal Memorial Sports Complex may finally sigh with relief.

That is after Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain yesterday announced that he started talks with representatives from the National Housing Authority regarding a housing project for the national athletes inside or outside the RMSC.

Buhain said NHA official Edgardo Pamintuan paid a visit to the RMSC early this week to inspect the lodging conditions of some 300 national athletes inside the 70-year-old sports complex.

"He (Pamintuan) was very saddened by what he saw," said Buhain, who accompanied the official inside dormitories at the track and football oval where medals from international competitions hang on clothesline alongside the day's laundry.

"I think he really got the picture and realized the billeting situation of the athletes," added Buhain, a former star swimmer who himself is familiar with the nooks and cranny of the RMSC.

"The Rizal Memorial was never meant to house athletes, it was built only for competitions," said Buhain. "But that's what happened through the years so we have to make good use of what we have."

Though the PSC chair stressed that there is still no specific plan yet, Pamintuan promised to make a report, which he will submit to Housing Secretary Mike Defensor.

The project, if ever it pushes through, can be within the eight-hectare RMSC or outside of it, as long as it's just nearby the sports complex and accessible to the athletes.

Buhain added that the PSC and NHA hope to work hand in hand with other agencies of the government to carry out the plan.

Meanwhile, Buhain said he will meet members of the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines and the Philippine Amateur Athletes Federation Inc. and try to convince them to unify for the sake of Philippine sports.

Marave heads karting series field

CARMONA, CAVITE—First leg winners, led by defending champion Pepon Marave of Futura Racing, eye their second straight wins as the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series stages its second leg this weekend, March 9-10, at the Carmona Circuit Philippines here.

Participants of this nine-leg series sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Zed, Nokia and Coca-Cola Bottlers are already making their final preparation for the event.

Marave will be gunning for a back-to-back victory in the premiere Formula A class with high hopes of etching history as the first karter to win the crown thrice.

Tuaso Racing Project's Mike Tuason, son of racing legend Arthur, hopes to bounce back from a first leg setback and stop Marave's title retention bid.

Other strong contenders are Edgesports karters Bingo Valero and Christian Sotto who finished second and third, respectively, in the kickoff leg.

"After testing the waters in the initial leg these karters will better prepare for the second leg and come up with a strategy to outsmart Marave," said Carmona Circuit Philippines project director Lot Tan.

Spring in top shape

SPRING Cooking Oil basketball team co-owners Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Herbert de Jesus are optimistic of their team's chances in the 5th Seaba Champions' Cup tournament which unwraps on March 10 at the Cebu Coliseum in Cebu City.

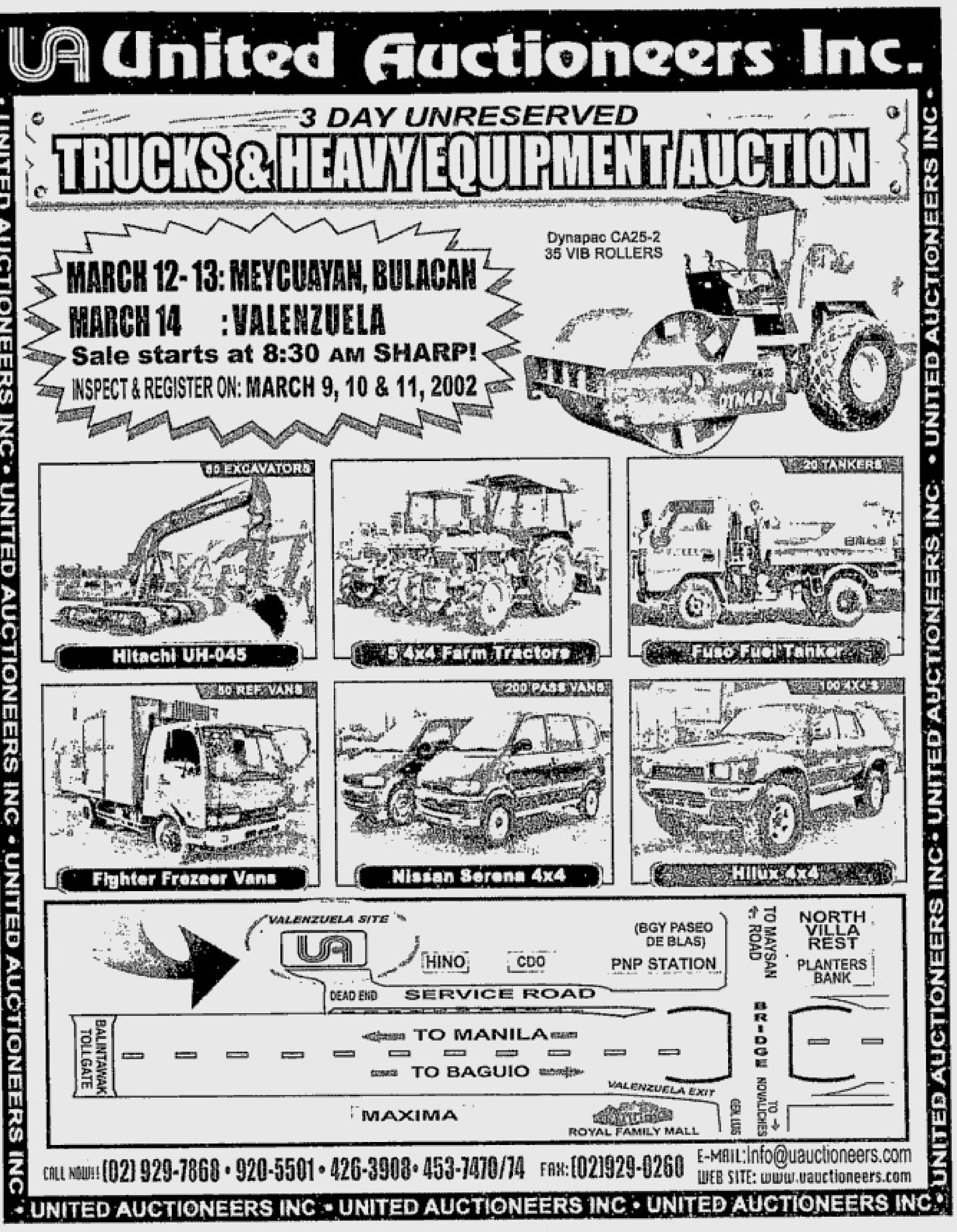
"They're in tip-top shape. They'd give their best for the country's sake," Padilla, national pistol champion and a consistent international medalist, and De Jesus said of their boys, who will carry the Philippine colors in the five-day cagefest.

Seven-time PBA best import Bobby Parks and Richard Ramey will banner Spring Cooking Oil, which ruled last year's National Open tournament by beating the highly favored Koreans.

They will be supported by Yong Garcia, Ricky Ricafuente, Allan de Castro, Joel Co, Mario Reyes, Ramil Ferma, Mike Buendia, Bong Martinez, Guiness Nabung and Macky Torres.

Spring will see action against Petronas Malaysia, Tong Whye Singapore, Aspac Texmaco Indonesia and another local team, the Cebu Selection.

"But we are the official Philippine entry," explained Spring Cooking Oil head coach Tito Palma, who is assisted by Ricky Magallanes and Bert Polido.



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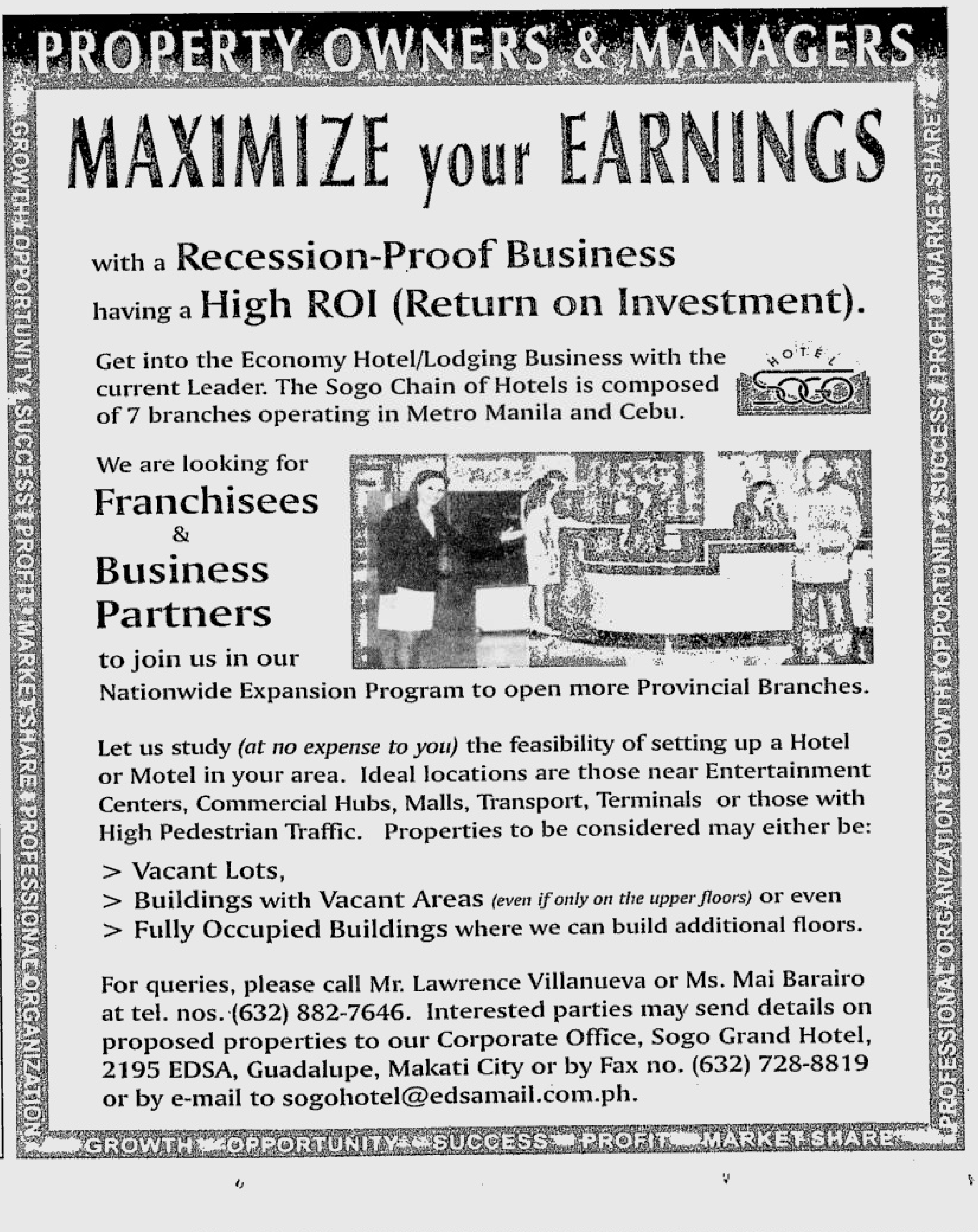

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Basketball Hall of Fame

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

ELEVEN outstanding players of the past will be eyeing final slots in this year's third induction ceremony of the National Basketball Hall of Fame. The nominees (in alphabetical order together with their stints in major international tournaments) are:

1. Manolet Araneta, 1948 London Olympic Games, 12th place; 2. Kurt Bachmann, 1959 Chile World Basketball Championship, 8th; 1960 Rome Olympics, 11th, 1958 Tokyo and 1962 Jakarta Asian Games, champion; 1960 Manila ABC (Asian Basketball Confederation), 1st; 3. Carlos Badion, 1959 Chile world cagefest, 8th; 1956 Melbourne, 7th 1960 Rome Olympics, 11th; 1958 Tokyo Asian Games, 1st; 1960 ABC, 1st; 4. Loreto Carbonell, 1959 Chile, 8th; 1956 Melbourne Olympics, 7th; 1958 Tokyo Asiad, 1st; 1960 Manila ABC, 1st; 5. Gerry Cruz, 1959 Chile, 8th; 1960 Rome Olympics, 11th; 1958 Tokyo Asiad, 1st; 1962 Jakarta Asiad, 1st; 1963 Taipeh ABC, 1st; 6. Eddie Decena, 1948 London Olympics, 12th;

7. Eddie Lim, 1959 Chile, 8th; 1952 Helsinki Olympics, 9th; 1956 Melbourne Olympics, 7th; 1954 Manila and 1958 Tokyo Asiad, 1st; 1960 Manila ABC; 1st; 8. Luis "Moro" Lorenzo, 1951 New Delhi Asiad, 1st; 9. Alfonso "Boy" Marquez, 1959 Chile, 8th, 1960 Rome Olympics, 11th; 1964 Tokyo Olympics (RP eliminated), 1968 Mexico Olympics, 13th; 1962 Jakarta Asiad, 1st; 1966 Bangkok Asiad, 6th; and 1960 Manila ABC, 1st; 10. Francisco Rabat, 1954 World Basketball Championship, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3rd; 1954 Manila Asian Games, 1st; and 11. Mariano "Nano" Tolentino, 1954 Brazil world cagefest, 3rd; 1952 Helsinki Olympics, 9th; 1956 Melbourne Olympics, 7th; 1951 New Delhi and 1954 Manila Asian Games, 1st and 1960 Manila ABC, champion.

Fifty-three names, including that of Robert Jaworski, who is now a senator, and Ramon Fernandez, both MICAA and PBA icons during their heyday, were originally submitted to the Hall of Fame Steering Committee chaired by former three-term Bukidnon Rep. Jose Zubiri. But after much debate and deliberations, the committee came out with a list that established the Top 11. This list will then be submitted to the Board of Trustees who will, in turn, select and name the final Hall of Fame awardees. The board is headed by Manolo Lopez of Meralco and Fernando Zobel de Ayala of Ayala Corp., chair and vice chair, respectively.

"Senator Jaworski and Fernandez were not included in the list of nominees because they are not yet eligible for nomination," said Zubiri, who is now governor of Bukidnon, "since one of the criteria of the Hall of Fame Foundation is that a candidate must have retired from active playing for 10 years. Thus, they still have to wait for a few more years before they could qualify for nomination." The other criteria for nomination are the candidate must be an outstanding player of his time and he must be of good moral character.

The landmark Hall of Fame was launched on Jan. 25, 1999 at the Manila Peninsula, with the fabled Carlos Loyzaga leading the awardees. Aside from Loyzaga, the others enshrined in the sacred Hall of Fame were Sen. Ambrosio Padilla, Fely Fajardo, Charles Berck, Tony Genato, Jacinto Ciria Cruz, Primitivo Martinez, Ramoncito Campos, Edgardo Ocampo, Gabby Fajardo and Narciso Bernardo. During the second induction ceremony on Sept. 12, 2000, Lauro "The Fox" Mumar topped the honor roll together with Francisco Vestil, Rafael Hechanova and Pocholo Martinez.

BAP gets boost

BURLINGTON Socks has been chosen by the Basketball Association of the Philippines as its official socks this year.

This was jointly announced by Burlington Industries Philippines (BIP) Inc. general manager Ruddy Tan, BAP president Tiny Literal and BAP secretary general Graham Lim.

Burlington will be the designated socks for all tournaments organized by the BAP such as the recent National Students Championship in Roxas City.

"This is in line with our corporate thrust of supporting youth and sports development," Tan said. "Burlington would like to contribute to the growth of the sports down to the grassroots level."

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Free Wind 2. Rosewood 3. Rapid Strike 4. Mahdi's Gold

Race 2—1. Big Treasure 2. Batang Pier 3. Test Run 4. Inside Treasure

Race 3—1. Shower of Stars 2. Art of Rose 3. Hostile Witness 4. Patikim

Race 4—1. Ong Bee 2. Togsi's Ambition 3. El Magnifico 4. Roman Dance

Race 5—1. Touch of Luck 2. Turbo Carera 3. Turkish Delight

Race 6—1. Oh Diva 2. Top Secret 3. Knows Love 4. Victory Lap

Race 7—1. Vinfa's Pride 2. Imperial Act 3. Rising Fast 4. Super Portal 5. Silver Flyer

Race 8—1. Lady Blaster 2. Best Lover 3. Double Header

Race 9—1. Il Amorosa 2. Jinky 3. Mr. Lucas 4. Sea Wolf 5. Empire Girl 6. Carolina Belle

NCA 7-cock derby fires off March 11

THIS year's slambang NCA 7-Cock Derby returns March 11-13 featuring the country's finest gamecocks in nerve-frazzling matches at the Araneta Coliseum.

Hosted by Eddie Araneta, Bomboy Araneta, Peping Cojuangco and longtime partner Esting Teopaco of Tarlac, the cockfest offers three-cock elimination fights billed Monday, March 11, followed by the four-cock finals on Wednesday, March 13. Submission of weights will be on Sunday, March 10, at the coliseum green gate. For details, call 911-3101 and ask for Dong Lamoste.

Competing are Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, former Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, two-time Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago, Pampanga's well-liked Jingco brothers, ageless James Chiongbian, former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, recent World Slasher solo champion Dicky Lim, Mario Villamor of Phoenix fame, the Madlambayan brothers, Alex and Gerry Escalona, Boy Lechon and RQP, Gerry Fevidal, Louie Cua, Philip Chiongbian, Makati Mayor Jojo Binay and Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, Iking Araneta, Ram Lopez, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, noted breeder Boy Jiao, Ryoichi Saito, Ruel Ricafort, Manny Co, Allan Tan, John Capinpin, Frank Berin and Rep. Rudy Albano.

Thunderbird Firefly-II of Nene Araneta and Firefly Thunderbird-8 of lawyer Ram Lopez and the Firefly Group won the most recent NCA 7-Cock Derby held last Feb. 18-20, emerging co-champions with identical six points each.

Pasay Cockpit lines up 60 fights tonight

THE FOURTH Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) 4-cock derby gets going at 7 tonight with 60 fights on tap.

Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Hammer Dewormer.

At stake in this event to be hosted by Peping Suarez, Daday Siochi and FTE-RCA Group is a cash prize of P300,000 while entry fee is P10,000.

Early favorites include the entries of Tony Lasala (Rey San Luis), Cito Manansala (CM Jackpot), Daday Siochi (CMS Tiger Ninja), Joey Lapid (Saluyan), Joel Fernando (JOF), Arnel Pimentel (Creekside SPC), Dindo and Mon Torres (Aqui RPT Gem), Dante Eustaquio (Black Manta), Peping Suarez (Joshua) and Madison Go (Gemquarian 168).

Meanwhile, pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano announced that another 4-cock event is set at Pasay Cockpit on March 15 with Manuel Polo and Bert Arizobal as hosts. For other inquires, please contact 816-6750, 843-189 and 843-1746.

SPORTS ON TV

By Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 8:30 a.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.)on ESPN

NBA - Indiana Pacers vs Memphis Grizzlies at 9 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on ESPN

ACC Basketball Tournament, First Round at 1 p.m., Quarterfinal #1 tomorrow at 1 a.m., Quarterfinal #2 tomorrow at 3:30 a.m. on ESPN

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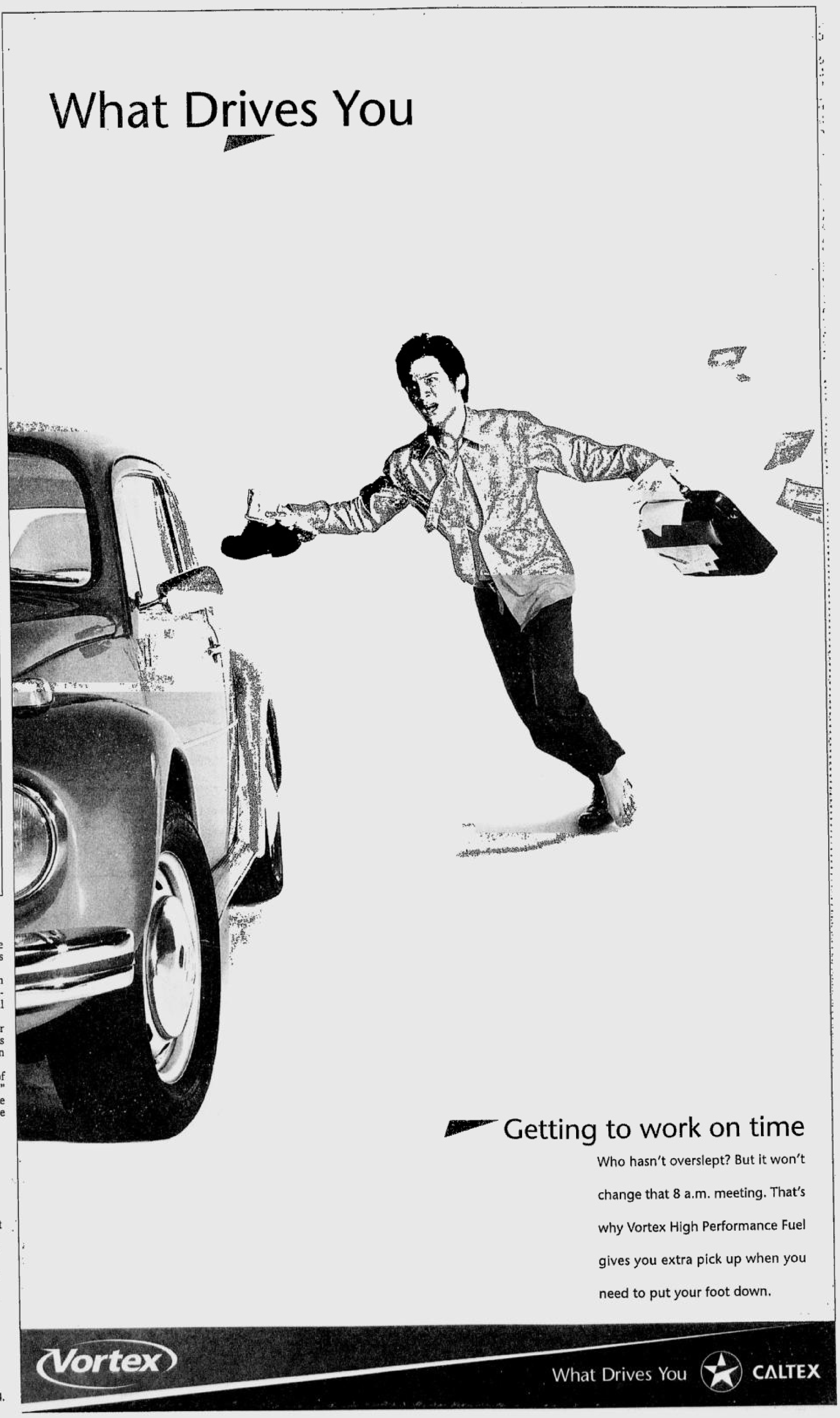

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12:00NN	RUSSEL TERRADO Dagupan City Nokia 6210	LINO ULARTE Nasugbu, Batangas Nokia 6210	EVA HALILI Bulacan Nokia 6210	WINNIE FREDA DE MATA Davao City Nokia 6210
1:00PM	CIELITO PADA Quezon City Nokia 8250	GERALDINE GARCIA Lipa City, Batangas ₱20,000	DESIREE LIM General Santos City Nokia 8310	RUBY ANN REYES Orani, Bataan ₱10,000
2:00PM	ALBERTO SOY Tagbilaran, Bohol ₱50,000	MARLON VALENZUELA Tondo, Manila Nokia 8850	LUCIENNE PULGAR Quezon City Nokia 8850	JANEL PAUL UGAN Davao City Nokia 8850
3:00PM	MELVIN PAGDALO Quezon City ₱10,000	ILUMINADA MARTIN Nueva Ecija ₱10,000	ELVIRA ZAMORA Cabanatuan City ₱10,000	ERLINDA TORRES Antipolo City Nokia 6210
4:00PM	EDNA FLORES Alaminos, Laguna Nokia 6210	SARAH CANASO Sta. Mesa, Manila Nokia 6210	MA. LUISA MENDOZA Baras, Rizal Nokia 6210	ROGELIO DE JESUS Quezon City ₱20,000

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Drive against red tape

TO "CLEANSE the Land Transportation Office of red tape and corruption" and to prevent the opening of illegal drug test centers for drivers, drug testing operators yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement with LTO chief Roberto Lastimoso. The operators vowed to police their ranks, according to Lastimoso.

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MMDA probes 'secret dumpsite'

By Christian V. Esguerra

METRO Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday ordered an investigation of a "secret dumpsite" near Metro Manila where garbage from the metropolis is supposedly being dumped.

"We don't allow secret dumpsites," Abalos said yesterday after a news conference in Makati.

But he admitted that the MMDA is using several open dumps outside Metro Manila to accommodate garbage from the metropolis.

Abalos said the MMDA would penalize those found maintaining the illegal dumpsite, whose existence was revealed by Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano.

Cayetano on Wednesday said in a statement that several private garbage contractors led by IPM Construction Co. has been operating a "secret dumpsite" in Sitio Arienda in Taytay, Rizal since the middle of last year.

The contractors secretly transport tons of garbage from Metro Manila in the wee hours and then cover it with rocks, Cayetano said, quoting reports that reached his office.

Environment Secretary Heherson R. Alvarez has ordered the closure of two open dumps in San Mateo, Rizal.

In a press statement, Alvarez said he issued a notice of violation against the town mayor after a team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources team and the National Solid Waste Management Commission confirmed the operation of at least two open dumps in Barangay Guitnang Bayan.

One dump is along the San Mateo River and has been operating since 1998, he said. The other dump is on the elevated portion of Kambal-Maarat Road and has been operating since last year, he said.

A report said the DENR has taken action against operators of 27 open dumpsites in Las Piñas City, Caloocan City, Cavite, Bulacan, Batangas, Quezon, Rizal, Manila, Makati City and Valenzuela City. ***With a report from Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Slain Ermita man 'a known tourist thief,' police say

By Jerome Aning

A WESTERN Police District official yesterday said the dead man whose body was dumped in front of a mall in Ermita, Manila Tuesday night was a "known tourist robber."

Supt. Manolo Martinez, chief of WPD Station 5, also said it was possible the man was strangled by a vigilante group that was hunting down and punishing criminals preying on foreign tourists in the city.

"Whether it was the deed of a vigilante group or not, what's clear is that the people who did this seem to be sending a strong message," Martinez told reporters.

He said it could not be helped if the public regarded summary executions, or "salvaging," as the work of vigilantes or rogue policemen.

"That's an old tag," he said. "Many policemen before us were accused of having had something to do with such incidents."

But he was quick to add that the police "will not tolerate any person or group who take the law in their hands, even to kill a crook."

The victim was initially identified as Max Mejoy, said to be a member of the Batang City Jail based on tattoos on his right shoulder. He was strangled before his body was dumped in front of a mall on Pedro Gil street.

Hanging around the man's neck was a cardboard with the writing that said, "*Turista huwag holdapin. Alagaan. Susunod* Ativan Gang."

The WPD's criminal investigation and detection unit, which took over the case, is checking the district's file photos of known BCJ members to establish the man's identity.

Martinez, however, said police intelligence assets and informers confirmed that the man was a "recidivist" holdup man preying on foreigners in Ermita.

Tourism safety dominated yesterday's monthly forum between media people and WPD district director Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr.

Pasinos said police visibility "can never be the answer" to the problem of petty criminals, particularly members of the so-called Salisi and Ativan gangs, who prey on tourists.

"If we could only take over the internal security of hotels and restaurants," Pasinos said.

Martinez also complained that malls and business establishments in his area of responsibility refuse to cooperate with his men regarding their security.

Earlier, Martinez sparked a controversy when he advised his men to round up and detain known members of the Ativan or Salisi gangs before they could victimize foreigners.

DUE to space constraints, Mr. Recah Trinidad's Bare Eye column on the Lion's Club medical mission will come out on Monday, March 11.

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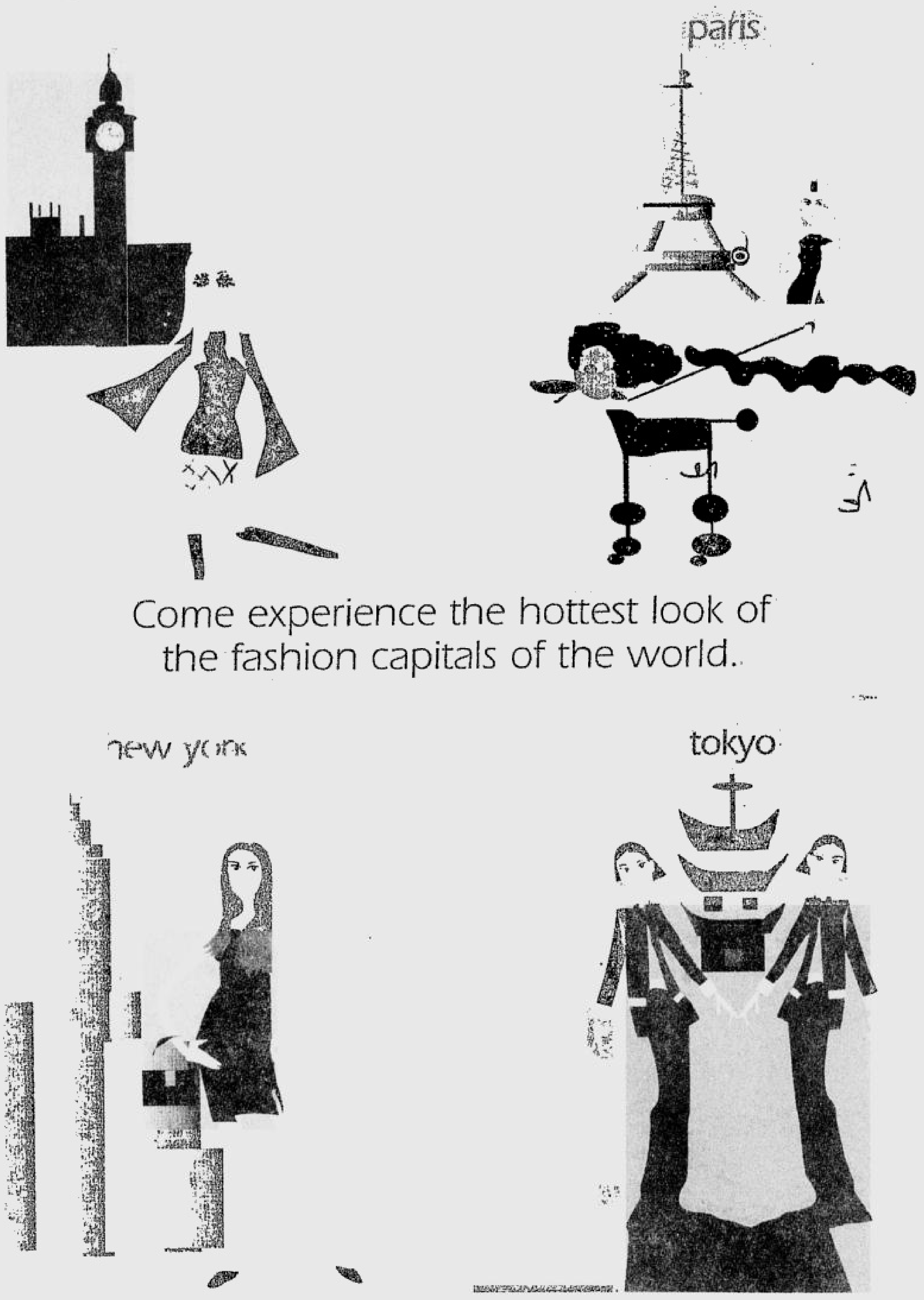
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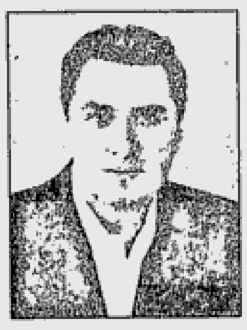

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Three charged with killing of student

By Nelson F. Flores

BINANGONAN, Rizal police have filed murder charges against three suspects in the killing of a 17-year old high school student in the town two weeks ago.

Charged before the Rizal provincial prosecutor's office were Ariel Abuda, Gilbert Paclibare and Santiago Yapit, all residents of Rotary Ville Subdivision, Barangay Darangan, Binangonan. Yapit is still at large.

SPO4 Reynaldo Gonzaga said witnesses positively identified the suspects as the men whom they saw leaving the house of Marites Gaceta on Feb. 28, the day Gaceta was believed to have been killed.

Gonzaga said that aside from being hit in the head with a blunt object, Gaceta was strangled in the living room.

Abalos 'exploring all angles' in trash deal

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE METRO Manila Development Authority is still negotiating with Jancom Environmental Corp. even as the Supreme Court is studying an appeal to junk the allegedly anomalous garbage deal between the government and the garbage contractor, MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos said yesterday.

Abalos said the MMDA has asked the garbage firm to "downgrade" its incineration technology to a landfill to comply with the Clean Air Act of 1999, pending the high court resolution on the petition.

"I'm exploring all angles," he told a news conference yesterday. "I'm trying to avoid confrontations here."

He said that if the Supreme Court rules with finality that the Jancom contract is indeed anomalous and disadvantageous to the government, the MMDA will automatically stop negotiations.

In a petition, the MMDA asked the Supreme Court to review the Jancom contract and to resolve it en banc, amid allegations that the government stands to lose P390 billion once it is signed.

Having been rejected thrice, the contract was declared valid by the Supreme Court's Third Division on Jan. 30. But in their decision, the high court justices said the contract could not be implemented without the President's signature.

Abalos said the high court should clarify this ruling.

"The President is being put in a delicate situation," he said. "If she approves the contract because of the Supreme Court ruling, where will she get the money? If she rejects it, what will the international community say?"

Abalos said the government cannot afford the Jancom contract, which stipulates a $59 tipping fee. Environmental groups said households would each have to pay P600 monthly for the disposal of their garbage.

Wait for court decision on border dispute, Pasig told

By Nelson F. Flores

SHUT UP and just wait for the court to decide.

This was what Cainta Mayor Nicanor Felix told Pasig City Mayor Soledad Eusebio in connection with their ongoing border dispute.

Eusebio countered that Felix should shut up.

The border dispute between Pasig and Cainta is pending for decision before an Antipolo City court. Portions of Barangay Karangalan, Sta. Lucia, Santolan and Manggahan are the subjects of the dispute.

Felix said Eusebio should stop talking about it in public, and just wait for the court's verdict.

Eusebio has been giving media interviews about the dispute and has been falsely portraying Cainta as the villain, Felix said.

Felix also accused Eusebio of altering the boundary of Cainta and Pasig City by removing the boundary marker in violation of the provision of the Penal Code. He claimed he has enough evidence to prove that Pasig local government and police authorities have willfully and feloniously removed the boundary marker inside the Greenwoods Executive Village IV.

Eusebio said Felix's allegations were lies.

"We believe that the accusations are full of lies, fabricated, flimsy and without basis," she said. "No official or employee of the city of Pasig is responsible for the missing boundary monument because in the first place there was no marker to remove or alter."

She said the disputed land belongs to Pasig City and she pointed out that the Supreme Court had already ordered Sta. Lucia Realty Corp. and Robinson Land Corp. to pay taxes to Pasig and not Cainta.

Last year, Eusebio announced that Cainta would claim all land it lost to Makati and Mandaluyong, triggering a "war" with Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos Jr.

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Opportunity knocks twice for Pip

FORMER matinee idol Tirso Cruz III enjoys being a "bad boy."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHO WOULD have thought the other half of the mega-popular and romantic Guy and Pip duo would one day play *contravida* and be extremely good at it?

But even **Tirso Cruz III** himself did not imagine himself playing a bad boy. He was plucked out from semi-retirement in show biz and was asked to play the archnemesis of action star **Ronnie Ricketts** in "Ganti ng Api."

"At that time, my manager **Bibsy Carballo**, even advised me, 'You've got to think it well,'" Tirso recalls. "If it doesn't click, you wouldn't know where to go."

But Pip passed his bad boy debut with flying colors. Not only did he get noticed when the film was shown, he also got several acting offers to play *contravida* in future projects.

Even on TV, Tirso showed everyone how evil he can get when getting into a character. He clinched the Star Awards best actor trophy for four consecutive years for his villain role in the afternoon tele-series, "Valiente," produced by Television and Production Exponents (Tape) Inc.

"It was the worst character that I did," Tirso says. "I was a spoiled brat and I was really evil from childhood. The series ran for five years.

He did other bad boy roles in Tape-produced series like "Del Tierro" and "Kirara."

Now, Tirso gets a chance anew to prove his "wickedness" in GMA's newest soap series, "Sana ay Ikaw na Nga." After only three months on the air, the series which is said to be the most expensive soap ever produced on TV, has landed in the Top 5 overall favorite programs.

"It was a big challenge for us to deliver when 'Sana ay Ikaw na Nga' was announced as the most expensive TV series ever produced," Tirso says. "We didn't expect it would take off in a short span of time. Now, that's an even bigger challenge for all of us."

In "Sana ay Ikaw na Nga," Tirso is Juancho, a heartless opportunist who will do anything for a fast buck. His character gets to interact with the rest of the cast members, whether they're rich or poor.

"I'm really a bad boy, lazy, wife-beater, drunkard and scheming," Tirso says. "The past three months, I haven't spoken a nice word to Mariana, the character of **Jaclyn Jose** who plays my wife in the series."

Tirso apparently does a convincing characterization so that in some of the places he goes to, people call him "Juancho."

"Even when I shot a *telesine* in Batangas, the kids were calling me Juancho," he says. "The character is like a piece of cloth that I put on. After the take, I can clown around on the set. That's how you should play it. You become what you know you should not be."

"Sana ay Ikaw na Nga" recently entered its second season and more characters were introduced in the series to make the plot more complex and interesting.

Tirso admits he now enjoys doing villain roles because of the wider scope of the character.

"I realized that bad guys have a larger field to play," he maintains. "Their character is more complex and colorful and you can experiment on so many things.

"For every character I play, I try to create him—what kind of person is he, what turns him off, is he the cool type or the sugar-coated one? That makes it easier for me to play the part."

It helps that he has a supportive family who respects his career decisions—wife **Lynn Ynchausti** and children **TJ**, 20; **Bodie**, 16; and **Djanine**, 13.

"They know it's just a job," Tirso explains. "They know that in reality, their dad is not like that."

Among Tirso's kids, no one has yet to follow in his footsteps. Even if there have been offers for his two sons to join show biz, the boys are not too keen on a full-time acting career.

"I tell them to finish their studies first, the one thing I never have, they must have," he says. "Then they can decide later. I believe the product should be better than the source."

Tirso is thankful that he has been given a second wind at his acting career.

"It took a long time before I was able to break away from the Guy and Pip shadow," Tirso allows. "It is very rare that opportunity knocks twice on your door and I was blessed to have experienced that.

New tele-magazine

TWO FEMALE friends from different fields but with distinguished career backgrounds team up to host a new tele-magazine, "Celebrations," to premiere this month on IBC 13.

Cherry Sarmiento and **Anna Lozada** may not be your typical TV hosts, but both will dare to bring an interesting and educational weekly program through the features, discussions and segments on "Celebrations."

Cherry is not alien to television. In 1992, she hosted the media forum, "Ugnayan," on IBC 13. In 1994, she did "One-on-One," which gave her the chance to interview noted personalities in the government. The said program also paved the way for her political career. The following year, she was elected councilor in Caloocan City.

Interestingly, Cherry also used to appear in the soap series, "Mga Batang Yagit."

A cousin of former Bulacan Rep. **Angelito Sarmiento** who is now a Cabinet secretary, Cherry ran for mayor in Caloocan in the 1998 elections, but lost to **Rey Malonzo**.

Cherry and Anna met each other last year through a common friend. Since then, the two were inseparable. They call each other "best friend." Their bonding entails everything, not just for their upcoming TV show, but also for the things they love to do like eating, chatting and also sharing each other's problems and heartaches.

Like Cherry, TV hosting is nothing new to Anna. Last year, Anna, who is the public relations manager of Grand Boulevard Hotel, had a stint as host of "Citizen's Patrol" also on IBC 13.

"My TV job was rather accidental," Anna shares. "We used to have a *kapthan* forum in the hotel and one of the organizers offered me to host 'Citizen's Patrol.'"

Even if her career orientation is hotel and restaurant management, Anna dauntlessly faced the TV cameras and tried TV hosting.

"It was an experience for me," she says. "That's why when the offer for a new TV came, I looked forward to doing it (again). You have a big advantage when you're on TV."

SARMIENTO

LOZADA

Anna, who hails from the town of Valenzuela, is the great granddaughter of Dr. **Pio Valenq:Szuela**, the legendary Katipunero who fought against the Spaniards and after whom the city was named.

Valenzuela Mayor **Bobbit Carlos** is also Anna's uncle.

Cherry and Anna are confident that "Celebrations" already have a captive market on a Saturday night (10 to 11 p.m.), since it airs after the popular and top-rating game show, "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" with **Christopher de Leon** and before the El Shaddai TV Ministry of Bro. **Mike Velarde**.

"Our show is a 'Celebration' of what makes the Filipino unique and exciting," Cherry grants. "Other networks focus on heinous crimes which they sensationalize and that can be very depressing. We want to explore the lighter side of Filipinos and the traits inherent

'Illusione' best seen in an intimate venue

From page A29

failed to make a splash during the segment's opening.

A gaunt "Gloria Gaynor" needs to put on more weight, er, padding to look the part.

As for Norma Desmond, essayed by venerable fashion and interior designer Ernest Santiago, what struck us more was his exquisitely beaded robe. Perhaps Santiago was mouthing a Spanish version of "As If We Never Said Goodbye" from "Sunset Boulevard," which explains the disparity between his lips and the song's English lyrics.

"Mama Mia," an ideal number for the tall, lovely gays, was marred by a misfit with hard facial features and rippling abdominal muscles. I didn't see the point. Attempts at comedy should have been confined somewhere else (Nierras' *okrayan* portion in "Swan Lake," a Dolphyesque farce more than an illusion, should have been enough). A *barbelistang bading* simply had no place in a supposed *pa*-beauty segment with vintage music from Abba no less. What a bummer!

Nothing new

Finally, instead of opening the show with a bang, Ynfante chose to begin it with a whimper through a presentation *a la* "The Vagina Monologues" that said nothing new.

In this day and age, nobody needs to be reminded of such cliches every gay has had to go through at one time or another to assert himself and be accepted by society. The very show itself, with patrons willing to pay good money just to get in, is proof-positive that gays have long proven themselves as artists capable of conjuring sublime images.

No amount of explanation or emotional blackmail will ever suffice to make gay bashers and homophobics mend their ways. That's their problem, and not that of a production that people have gone out of their way to see in the hope of being transported for two hours to a world of make believe.

And what's with the teacher bit? We understand scriptwriter Roy Iglesias based the "complainant's" gripes on their true-to-life experiences, but why single out poor teachers.

"*Ngayon*," declared one character, "*malaki pa ang suweldo ko sa* teacher!" (Now, I earn more money than a teacher!) The one-time teacher-turned-Japayuki claimed that his former colleagues have once ostracized him.

Fine, but how ironic! If there's one group as marginalized as gays in this country, it's probably underpaid, overworked teachers. Thank goodness, none of them were probably in the audience that night. Ticket prices are simply too steep for a humble teacher to afford.

HELLO, Dolly!

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

SUNSET LADY. Ernest Santiago puts on "Norma Desmond's" turban

MCA Universal holds CD clearance sale

STARTING today and every Friday and Saturday of the month, MCA Universal is holding a CD clearance sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 28 Manga Road corner Aurora Boulevard, Barangay Kaunlaran, Cubao, Quezon City.

The sale offers up to 90 percent discount on CDs and music cassettes, from pop to rock, ballads to jazz, alternative rock to classical, hip hop to OPM and R&B. Included on sale are hard-to-find items by Antonio Carlos Jobim, Rod Stewart, Rammstein, Puccini, Cecilia Bartoli, Pavarrotti, Wes Montgomerry, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespiee, Henry Mancini, Hansons and a lot more.

New titles are going to be available every week.

For directions in going to the sale site, call MCA Universal at 727-4011 to 22.

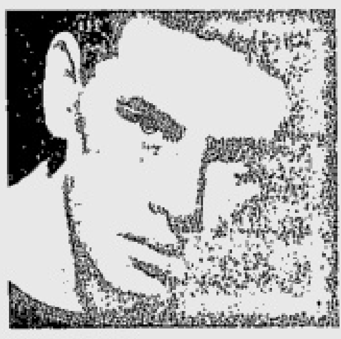
MTV-Penshoppe Youth Council finalists

TWENTY-ONE semi-finalists for the MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council were named recently.

They are Miguel Azcuna, Brad Turvy, Uriah Vanden Bos, Richard Lozano, Terence Koa, Marco Lobregat, Alexander Felix II, Douglas Robinson, Geoff Briz, Carlos Paolo San Luis, Jaclyn Cartasano, Nichole Schulze, Kathleen Hilario, Treisha Moussavie, Leila Kuzma, Larah Danielle Monterola, Francesa Isabel Dolendo, Theresa Paron, Joanna Gonzales, Danielle Mendoza and Kelly Misa.

A selection party to announce the winners will be held March 9 at Boracay Terraces Resort in Boracay Island.

The event is supported by Cali and iAcademy.



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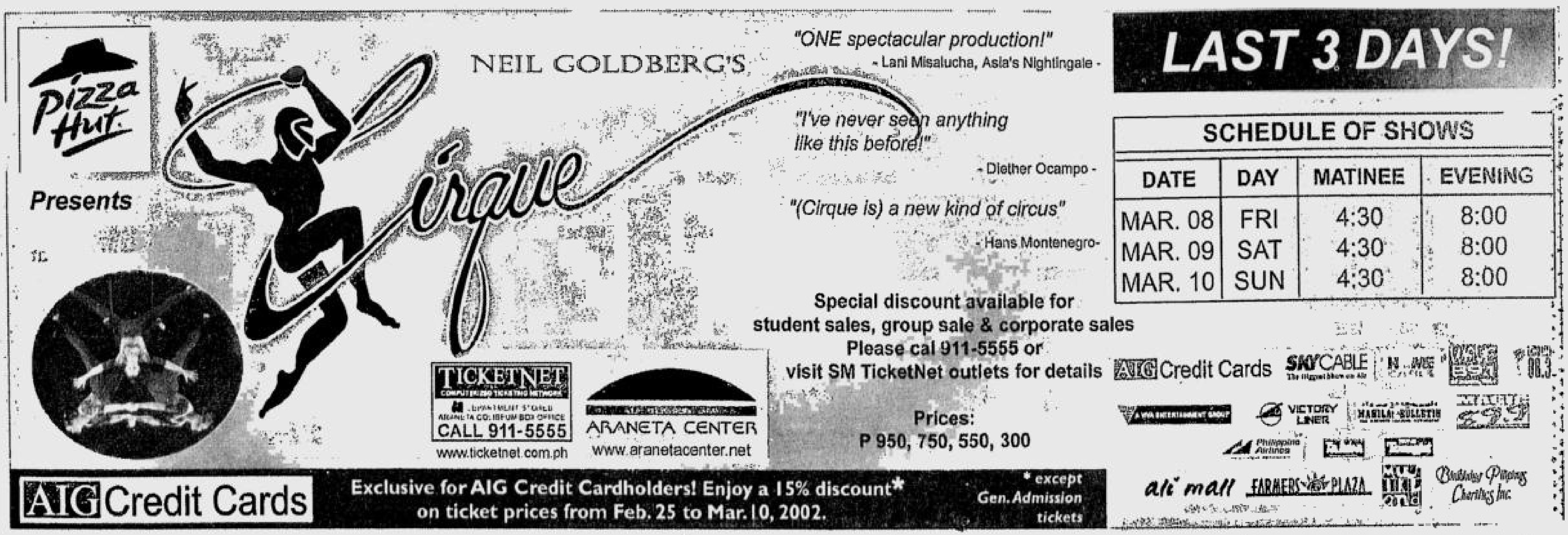

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2 (SDDS)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
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4 GOLD (DTS)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	13 GHOSTS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	NOT ANOTHER TEEN
8	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
9	GOT 2 BELIEVE
10	GOT 2 BELIEVE

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4	ESKANDALOSA
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

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2	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
3	ESKANDALOSA

starmall Movies
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2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	NOT ANOTHER TEEN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
5	ESKANDALOSA

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	ESKANDALOSA
4	WE WERE SOLDIERS
5	NOT ANOTHER TEEN
6	13 GHOSTS
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	IKAW LAMANG . . .
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	ESKANDALOSA
3	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	ESKANDALOSA
A	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	ESKANDALOSA
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	
3	
4	ESKANDALOSA
5	13 GHOSTS
6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
7 (DTS)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8 (SDDS)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
9 (DOLBY)	NOT ANOTHER TEEN

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	ESKANDALOSA

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
3	ESKANDALOSA
4 (SDDS)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
5	GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 (DOLBY)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
7 (DTS)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8	13 GHOSTS
9	ALI

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3	ESKANDALOSA
4	GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 (SDDS)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
6	WE WERE SOLDIERS
7 (DOLBY)	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
8	13 GHOSTS

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4	ESKANDALOSA
5 (SDDS)	WE WERE SOLDIERS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	ESKANDALOSA
Lords	ESKANDALOSA
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3	ESKANDALOSA

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4	GOT 2 BELIEVE
5	ESKANDALOSA

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	ESKANDALOSA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	GOT 2 BELIVE
2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 (DTS)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
2 (DTS)	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DOLBY)	BEAUTIFUL MIND
4	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (DOLBY)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
3 (DTS)	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 (DOLBY)	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	APOY SA MAGDAMAG
3	ESKANDALOSA
4 (DTS)	WE WERE SOLDIERS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
5	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	13 GHOSTS
2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3	HALIK SA AKING LUPA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	ALI
2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (DTS)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

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2	KATE & LEOPOLD
3	SHALLOW HAL
4	GOT 2 BELIEVE

Jade Cinema
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3 (DTS)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
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8	GOT 2 BELIEVE
9	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
10	ALI

Ermita
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1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4	13 GHOSTS
5	BEAUTIFUL MIND
6	NOT ANOTHER TEEN
7	WE WERE SOLDIERS

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1	ALI
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	BEAUTIFUL MIND
4	NOT ANOTHER TEEN
5	13 GHOSTS
6	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
7	GOT 2 BELIEVE
8	ESKANDALOSA

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE
4	13 GHOSTS
5	BEAUTIFUL MIND
6	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
7	ESKANDALOSA
8	ALI

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	NOT ANOTHER TEEN
4	BEAUTIFUL MIND
5	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
6	ESKANDALOSA

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6	IKAW LAMANG . . .

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2	SHALLOW HAL
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5	GOT 2 BELIEVE
6	RAT RACE

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6	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

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'Illusione' best seen in an intimate venue

By Alex Y. Vergara

REVIEW

UPSIDE DOWN. James Cooper does a "Diana Ross."

WHAT happens when a supposedly well-loved, sure-fire gay musical revue, which "Illusione" purports to present, is transported to the big stage?

You get a disjointed production that at times appeared flat for such a big venue as the Greenbelt's Onstage. In this case, a bigger venue doesn't necessarily translate to a better show since a cabaret act like "Illu-sione" is best seen in an intimate venue.

To be fair, "Illusione," mounted by Bahaghari Productions, has its moments. We won't reveal any gimmicks (the Broadway suite, particularly the "Dreamgirls" and "Gypsy" portions, brought the house down) lest we dampen your viewing pleasure. Fritz Ynfante's latest opus is still a viewable fare despite several spotty numbers, but we have to be honest: it will be hard-put to please jaded gays who've seen it all.

Stylist and former impersonator James Cooper sparkled on stage as Diana Ross. Thanks to proper styling and Eric Pineda's black, dolman-sleeved number, Cooper moved every inch like the diva during his younger, slimmer days.

So-called look

Pineda has managed to achieve the right proportions or should we say "illusions" in his attempt to recreate a gown originally designed decades ago by the legendary Bob Mackie.

In true Diana fashion, Cooper, in curly hair, black makeup and all, raised his arms, lifted his chin and gritted his teeth at the right moments as he lip-synched "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." He earlier did his version of Carol Channing's "Hello, Dolly" with equal aplomb.

The two numbers only showed how the right styling and costume could enhance a seasoned impersonator in achieving the so-called look. Even in Cooper's case, who admits he doesn't resemble the slightest bit any of the celebrity he used to impersonate.

This same formula, however, failed to work for a number of characters, notably Madonna, Donna Summer, show host Oprah Winfrey (was she, as essayed by Ogie Juliano, trying to affect a British, Louisianan or Texan accent?) and, regrettably, Norma Desmond.

The Madonna wannabe was, in fact, a competent dancer. So, what was amiss with his performance? He simply wasn't aggressive enough to fill in such a larger-than-life icon's pointed corset. That's probably why Ynfante completely did away with Barbra Streisand, a staple in almost every drag fest. No one probably came close enough to approximating the ultimate diva's likeness.

"Sharon Cuneta," a spitting image of the megastar, was another crowd-pleaser. Not only did he look like Sharon, he even mimicked her mannerisms with uncanny likeness.

"Madonna's" lapses would have probably been camouflaged had Ynfante employed several back-up dancers — permanent fixtures in every concert of the Material Girl. Although "Cher" and "Jennifer Lopez" fared better, the disco divas would have also benefited from the presence of other warm bodies on such a cold, empty stage.

Obvious gap

Not even Jay Aranda's suberb lighting could gloss over this flaw. We wonder why Ynfante had failed to fill in this obvious gap. Seasoned choreographer Douglas Nierras had been under utilized in this portion.

"Donna Summer's" performance was weighed down literally. Perhaps, in an attempt to add some oomph to his lackluster performance, he was made to wear a disastrous and laughable combination: a teeny-weeny spangled wrap that revealed inch after inch of his stiff, prosthetic breasts as he discoed his way on stage. How unfortunate since he was made to end the "black divas" segment, a task which should have belonged to a stronger performer like "Mariah Carey" or "Whitney Houston."

Filipinos' notoriously short memories extend to entertainment. With the exception of Carey, Whitney Houston and Tina Turner, most of the soul queens in the said segment haven't had a hit in decades. That's why even the great "Shirley Bassey," in the hands of a competent impersonator,

ILLUSIONE/ A27

Onstage
GREENBELT

illusione

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Entertainment Editor, (PDI, March 1)

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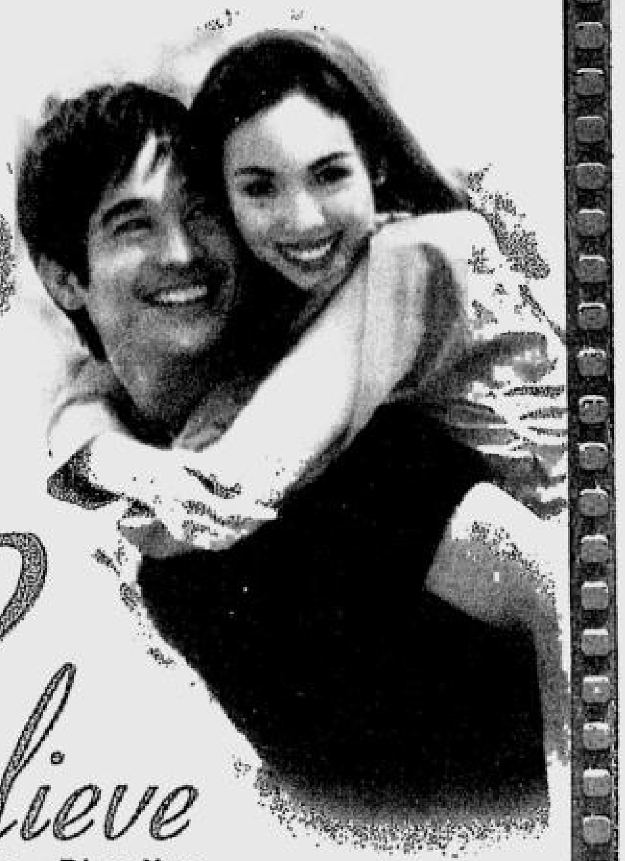

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	ALI
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	NOT ANOTHER TEEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	13 GHOSTS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	ESKANDALOSA
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
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TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
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STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
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CINEMA-2	ESKANDALOSA
CINEMA-3	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ALI
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	HINOG SA PILIT
CINEMA-8	SHALLOW HAL
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
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CINEMA-3	CLOSED
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CINEMA-2	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-3	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-4	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
CINEMA-5	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-6	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
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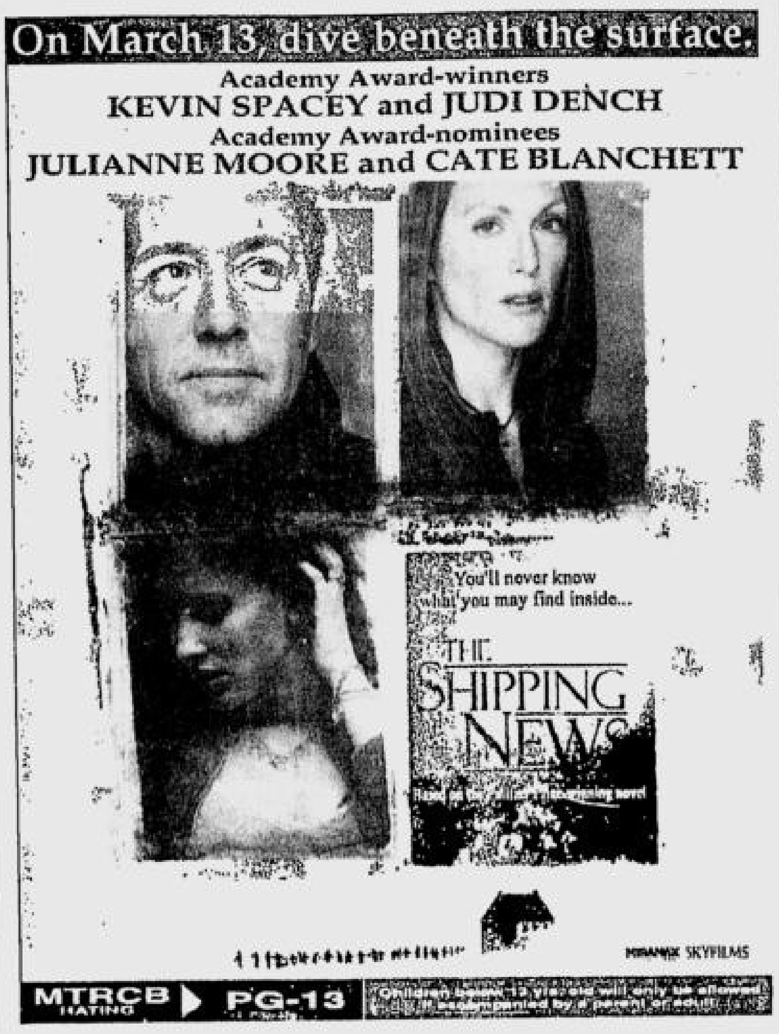
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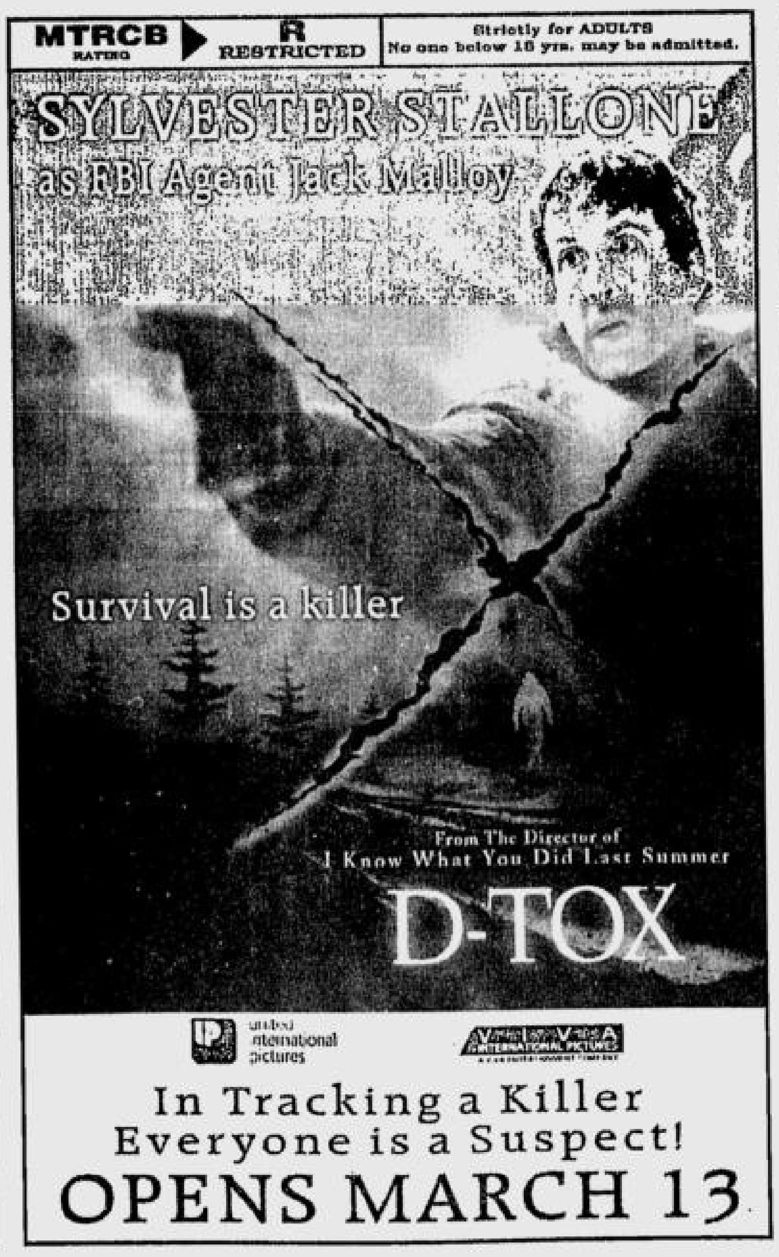
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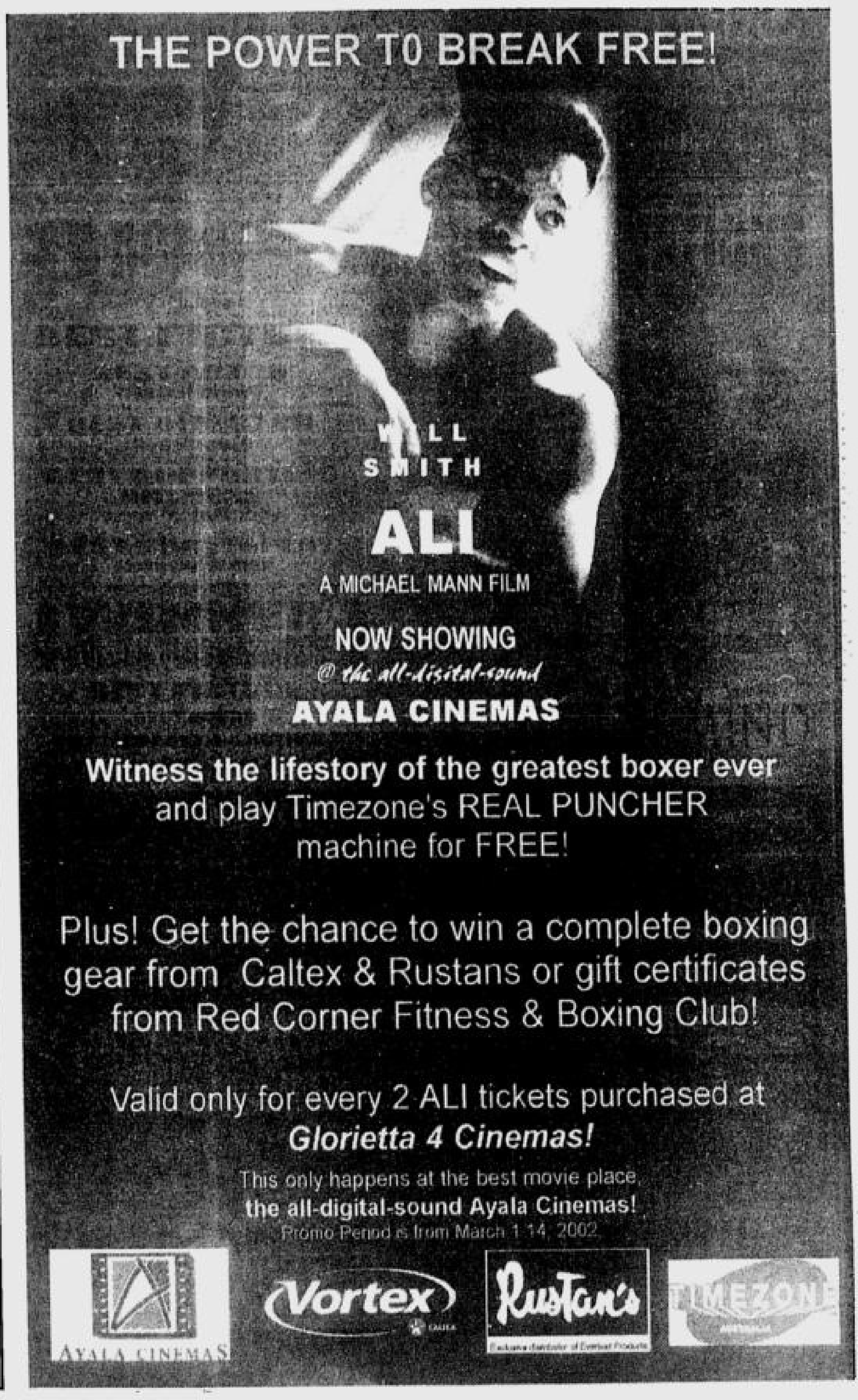
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Photographed By ROMY VITUG
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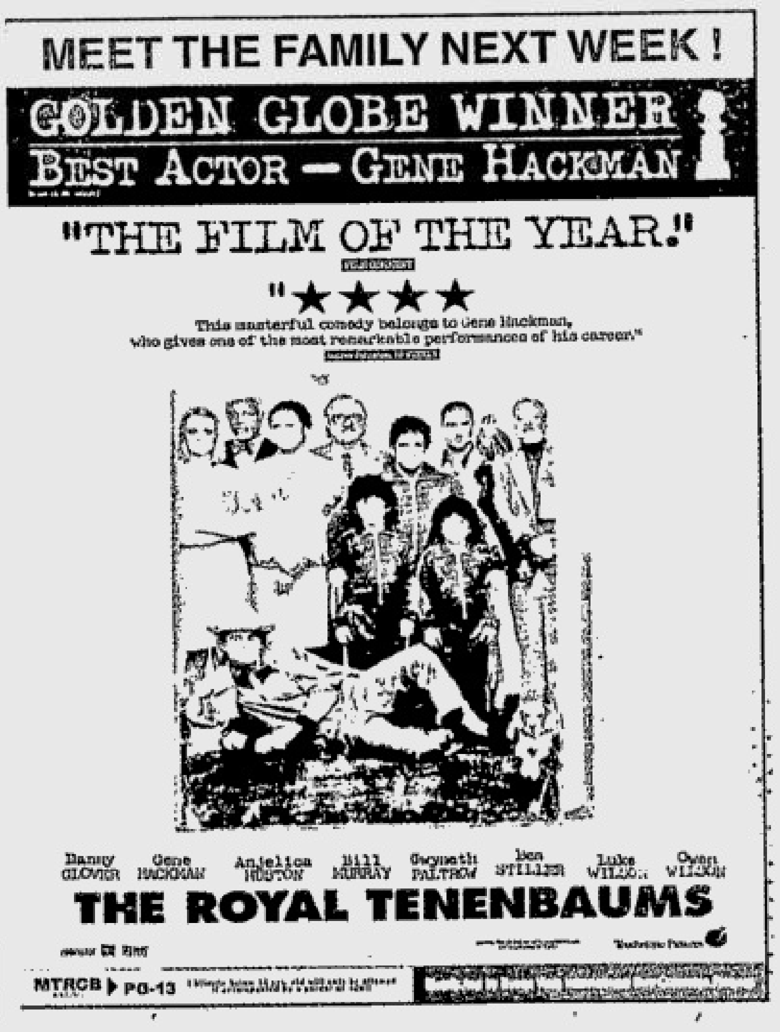
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THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS
MTRCB PG-13

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Answered prayers

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to **Kim** and **Felicia Atienza**, my first matrimonial *inaanak*.

The reason I was chosen to be their godmother is quite simply because Kim joined my Baclaran praying group the day after he met, spent a glorious weekend and fallen in love with Felicia. She had just flown back to London where she was based, and Kim had prayed with us our novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

He prayed fervently then for Mary's intercession regarding their blossoming relationship. Distance because of their careers (she was then a London-based investment banker; Kim remains a Manila councilor), and the uncertainty of a new love had made Kim both nervous and giddy with excitement. Kim prayed that if this was the elusive, lasting love he had longed for, then they would overcome all obstacles; their love would continue to grow regardless of the miles that separated them and the long stretches of time they would be apart.

Yesterday, at the San Agustin Church, what Kim had prayed for nearly two years ago was wholeheartedly answered. I know their marriage will be strong because its foundation is based on prayer, trust, mutual support, and emotional maturity. I wish Kim and Felicia a lifetime of happiness. I thank them for the inspiration to keep praying, and for the courage to not be afraid to grab and nurture love once it unexpectedly comes into our lives.

'Amazing Nights'

Last Tuesday night, my friend **Marco Borlongan**, who heads Butterfly Productions, gave me tickets for his first installment of "Amazing Nights" at the NBC Tent. I invited my cousins **Marla** and **Rina** to join me, as well as my bosom buddy, **Zsa Zsa Padilla**.

The show topbilled the extraordinary musical tandem of **Gary Valenciano** and **Ryan Cayabyab**. In the nearly 20 years of Gary's career, this was the first time he performed sans band, back-up singers, and dancers. There were only the maestro at the grand piano and the singular presence of Gary singing solo.

The show opened with Mr. C's composition "Kailan," popularized a dozen years ago by his youth group Smokey Mountain. I started really getting into the groove of the show when Gary gave in to Zsa zsa's request to render **Michael Jackson**'s "She's Out of My Life." Gary had sung Michael Jackson's "Someone in the Dark" in commemoration of E.T.'s 20TH anniversary, and he said Michael remains one of his favorite artists. "She's Out of My Life" is one of Michael's most plaintive songs, and regardless of your current emotional state, it does strike an unforgettable chord.

Gary asked Zsa Zsa to join him for an impromptu duet, and they effortlessly sang "Used To Be." Mr. C reminded them that they'd rendered that duet 15 years ago in "The Best of Manila" which he'd also conducted. It felt great to hear how their voices blended seamlessly.

I can't wait for Gary to release his Viva-produced, all-duets album. He and Zsa Zsa recorded an **Ogie Alcasid** composition.

Sentimental

We became very sentimental when Gary sang his composition "Sana Maulit Muli." It was impressive to hear his piano duet with Ryan. **Bituin Escalante** joined Gary to sing "How Do You Keep the Music Playing." Wow, she really has one of the clearest and best quality voices among our young singers.

Gary gave in to our request to sing an impromptu, a capella version of our favorite, "Fool 'til the End." This was one of his earliest compositions, and it starts with the lines *"Before you go away to the one you do belong, so glad we met and you stayed, though it wasn't very long. Was it only just a dream? It's over now it seems."*

The refrain goes something like this: "*Show me and tell me, how do you put this love aside? Put it away for another time, with no guarantee that you'll be mine. A fool I am it seems, 'cause I'll be loving you in my dreams. Until I wake up and then, time ain't our friend I'll just stay a fool, 'til the end.*"

The show helped remind all of us just how multi-talented Gary truly is. His songwriting has the ability to make us appreciate the haunting, inescapable, sorrowful beauty of unrequited love.

My favorite song came at the very end, Gary's version of "I Will Be Here." Although he had been singing for more than two hours, and Mr. C had been playing for even longer, we all felt connected and in a relaxed, highly appreciative musical state.

I'm looking forward to the rest of the "Amazing Nights" series because the NBC Tent is a great venue for this type of show. You get the unique repertoire that we've come to expect from the shows at the Mandarin's Captain's Bar, but the space is much bigger, providing unobstructed view, ample leg room and breathing space, and there are delicious bar chow and a wide variety of drinks offered by Le Souffle.

It's a great opportunity for couples to get more intimate while under the romantic spell of the piano and sitting at candlelit tables for two. Gary V and Mr. C were a superb team-up, an excellent initial offering of what promises to be a truly distinctive series.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

GOT 2 BELIEVE - GP 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	A BEAUTIFUL MIND - P13 1:05, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35, 11:10	WE WERE SOLDIERS - P 13 11:00, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 10:00
NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE - R 18 12:45, 2:56, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	WE WERE SOLDIERS - P 13 12:40, 3:25, 6:10, 9:00, 11:30	A BEAUTIFUL MIND - P13 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

Matinee P80 Mon-Fri 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

Sharon Cuneta, so happy and 'gay'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Sunday on her TV show, **Sharon Cuneta** let her hair down (and changed from one colored wig to another) as her entire program focused on "Illusione," the hit impersonation musical, revue at Onstage Greenbelt, as well as other gay productions and entertainers.

Sharon had a whole lot of fun singing a lip-sync duet with her impersonator, who spoofed her signature cutesy gestures and poses. Some celebrities don't like it when they're spoofed (**Willie Nepomuceno** has an interesting story to tell about **Joseph Estrada**), but Sharon gamely played the joke on herself for all it was worth.

The show also featured gay "sing-alike" impersonators of name singers, and the Regine impersonator really sang like the Songbird (with a song and a bird, figure that out).

The "Illusione" cast announced the good news that tickets to their hit show will be available this weekend at more popular prices.

Guest **Fanny Serrano** dusted off his own impersonation act from decades ago and impersonated **Gloria Gaynor**. Gloria *who?* Nostalgia is one thing, but amnesia is something else again . . .

All told, however, Sharon's show last Sunday was a colorful, tuneful tribute to third-sex talents whose wish-fulfillment acts have energized the current entertainment scene. For the trend to be noticed by a popular show like "Sharon" is a noteworthy affirmation of its popularity, indeed.

Of late, "Sharon" has tended to be rather predictable. But with more features like last Sunday's gay cavalcade, the program will more quickly recover that all-important sense of surprise that makes viewers want to see a show from week to week.

'Rico' restaged in Davao

Last March 1 and 2, the original musical, "Rico" was restaged by the LCB Performing Arts Center at the new CAP auditorium in Davao City. The sung-through musical about a shoeshine boy is by Rebel **Villamor Magdagasang**.

Ali endorses 'Ali'

MUHAMMAD Ali has gone out of his way to endorse 'Ali,' the film **Michael Mann** made on his life, with **Will Smith** playing the former boxing champion at the peak of his powers.

Says Ali: "This is the only film on me that tells it like it is. I'm the only one who knows the real story of my life, and Will Smith and Michael Mann are the only people I trust to bring that story to the screen. I stand by them, and their film is the only one I have supported."

You can't get a more enthusiastic endorsement than that!

Movies on TV

ON the HBO channel, keep an eye out for these treats: Friday, March 8 at 6:30 a.m., "Introducing Dorothy Dandrige: A True Story." 1:30 a.m., "Girl, Interrupted."

Saturday, March 9 at 9:30 a.m., "Dog Park." At 12:30 a.m., "Unforgiven."

Sunday, March 10 at 8 p.m., "Ghost."

Monday, March 11 at 9:30 a.m., "Magnolia."

At 7:30 p.m., "Chicken Run." At 2:05 a.m., "Missing." At 2:15 a.m., "The Fugitive."

Tuesday, March 12 at 6 a.m., "Neil Simon's Brighton Beach Memoirs." 7:45 a.m., "The Godfather, Part 3."

On the Cinemax channel: Friday, March 8 at 10:30 a.m., "The Ten Commandments." At 2 p.m., "Cinema Secrets: Fantasy Worlds."

Saturday, March 9 at 8 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: Creature Comforts." At 8:30 a.m., "Shakespeare in Love." At 5:45 a.m., "Celebrity Profiles: Marlon Brando."

Sunday, March 10 at 8:15 a.m., "Bugsy." At 1:30 p.m., "Cinema Secrets: Fantasy Worlds." At 10:45 p.m., "Beetlejuice."

Monday, March 11 at 6:30 a.m., "Lord Jim." At 3:30 p.m., "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?"

Tuesday, March 12 at 9:45 a.m., "Snow Falling on Cedars."

Oscar Fever on Star Movies

OSCAR awardee **Kevin Costner** stars in "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" at 9 p.m. today, March 9 on Star Movies. Other lead players include **Morgan Freeman**, **Alan Rickman**, **Christian Slater** and **Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio**. Replays on March 12 at 10:30 p.m. and March 23 at 10 a.m.

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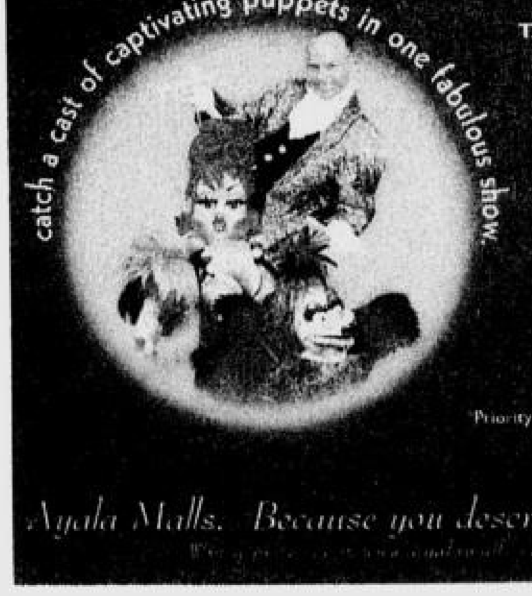
G1 (GLORIETTA 1)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)		GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN	1 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE	4 SALSA	1 AMORES PERROS (Exclusive Screening)	1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS	2 ALI	5 SHALLOW HAL	2 A BEAUTIFUL MIND	2 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
3 ALI	3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND GUARANTEED SEATS	6 WE WERE SOLDIERS	3 ALI	3 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE		7 13 GHOSTS	4 Onstage ILLUSIONE MARCH 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16	4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
				5 ALI

The Ayala Malls Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU



THE MURRAY RAINE PUPPET SHOW

MAKATI
March 22, 23 & 24 - 4:30pm, 5:30pm & 6:30pm
At the Glorietta 4 Park
For inquiries, call 813-3396

ALABANG
March 15, 16 & 17 - 11:00am, 3:30pm, & 6:10pm
At the Activity Center
For inquiries, call 842-2782

10-to-10 Mallwide Sale - March 15, 16 & 17

CEBU
March 8 - 5:30pm, 6:30pm, & 7:30pm
March 9 - 3:30pm, 5:30pm & 6:30pm
March 10 - 11am, 4pm, & 6pm
At the Activity Center
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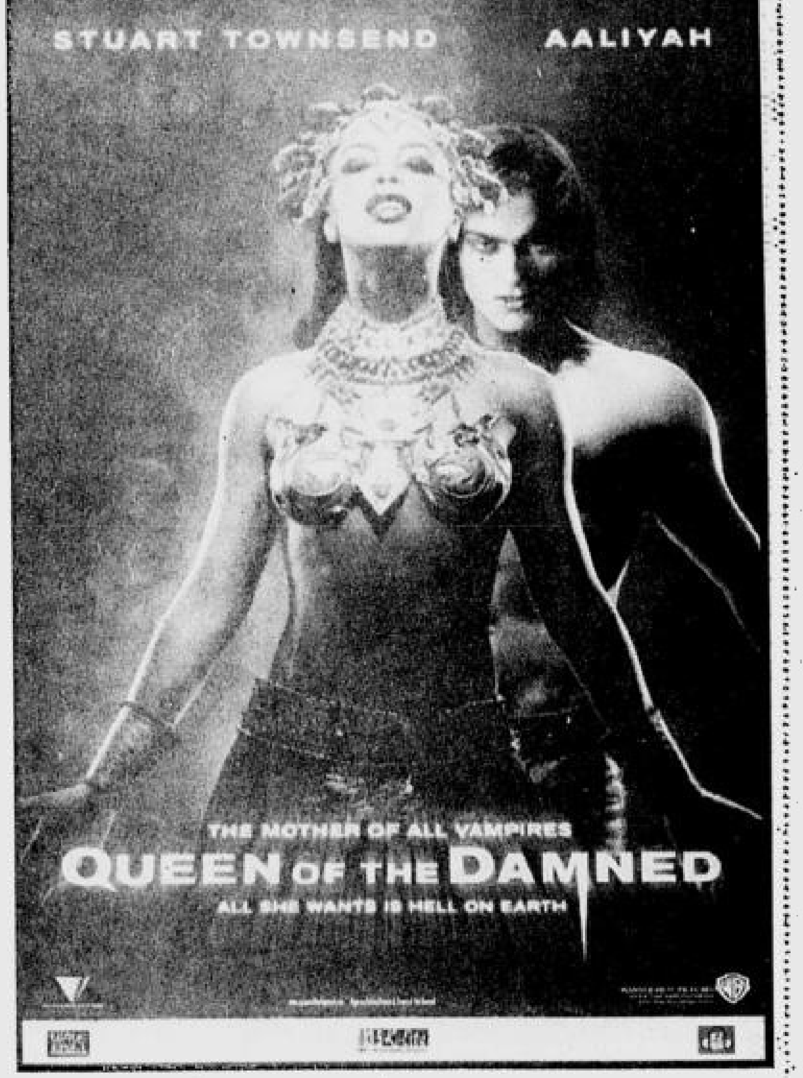
A boldly conceived and intricately plotted drama of love, loss, retribution and redemption, *AMORES PERROS* has already been hailed by the NEW YORK TIMES as "the first classic of the new decade." Ever since its acclaimed and award-winning world premiere at Cannes, this directorial debut by Alejandro González Iñárritu has made a sensation on the international film festival circuit, where it has been praised as a film of outstanding power, originality, and raw beauty. It has also won a stunning array of prizes from both juries and audiences alike, proclaiming not only its impressive artistic achievements, but also its undeniable and visceral power to excite people in new and unexpected ways.

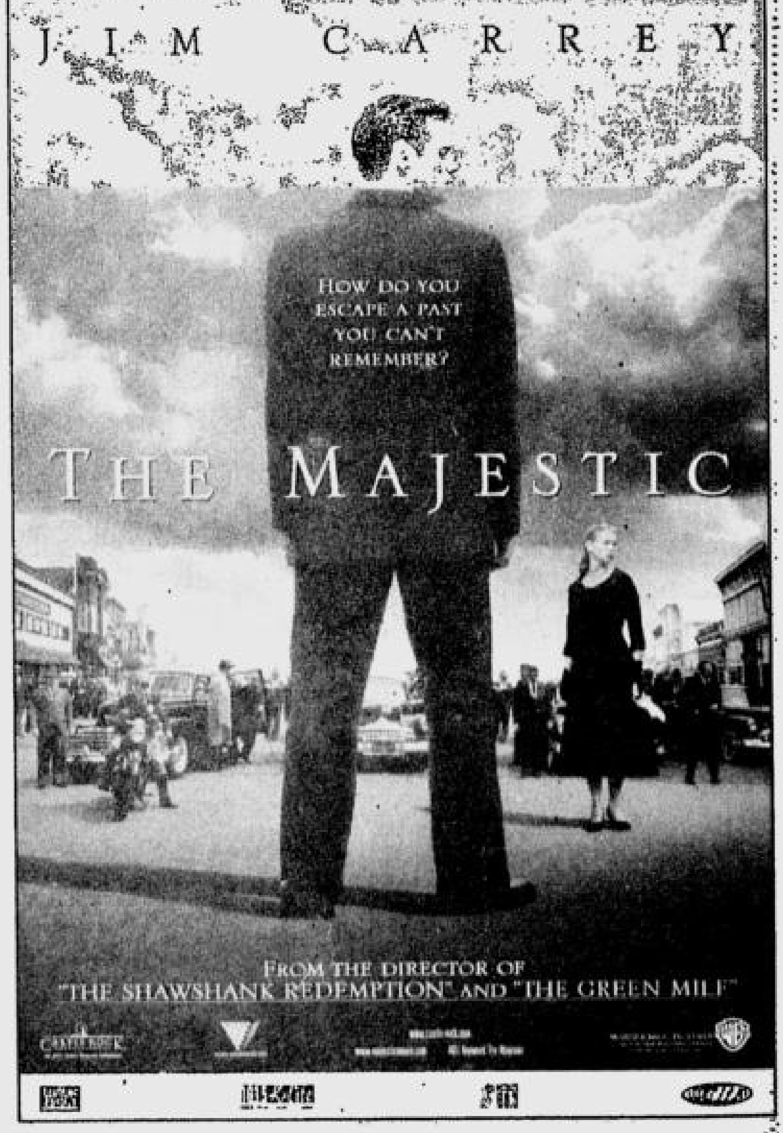
AMORES PERROS raises provocative questions about the human condition at the same time that the film daringly recapitulates and reinvents different styles of Latin cinema. The result is a vivid and intricate mosaic of classic themes rendered in original -- and unforgettable ways.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)
NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER

OPENS MARCH 13
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 18 yrs.old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


STUART TOWNSEND
AALIYAH
THE MOTHER OF ALL VAMPIRES
QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
ALL SHE WANTS IS HELL ON EARTH

OPENS MARCH 20 !!!
MTRCB RATING GP General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED


JIM CARREY
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THE MAJESTIC
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION" AND "THE GREEN MILE"

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BUSINESS

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Ayala to sell stake in Makro, MRT

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY giant Ayala Land Inc. wants to divest its minority stakes in retailer Pilipinas Makro Inc. and Edsa MRT-3 operator Metro Rail Transit Corp. in order to focus on its core property businesses.

ALI president Francisco Licuanan III told reporters that ALI would like to let go of its interest in the two companies because these were not within the company's expertise.

In line with a reorganization strategy, the entire Ayala group is currently realigning its business interests to create value above and beyond main subsidiaries ALI, Globe Telecoms and Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Ayala Corp. president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala recently said the conglomerate would be prepared to trade businesses whereby it was no longer the "natural owner" or which do not meet its performance criteria.

ALI has a 28-percent stake in Pilipinas Makro, a joint venture with the Makro group of the Netherlands and retail giant Henry Sy's SM Investments, which own 38 percent and 30 percent, respectively. The supermarket chain has been operating in the country since 1996.

With the liberalization of retail trade in the country since last year, however, a foreign group like Makro could now own 100-percent of retail businesses. Makro had already received the go-ahead from the Department of Trade and Industry to operate wholly owned units in the Philippines.

Licuanan said that under the joint venture agreement, the Dutch group could have the right of first refusal should the local partners decide to sell their interest. Asked whether ALI would want to sell jointly their combined stake in the venture to the foreign group, he said there were no ongoing negotiations with the SM group to that effect.

While the retailing business was profitable in the country, Licuanan said ALI did not have an expertise in supermarket operations. ALI, however, is among the biggest commercial developers in the country.

On the other hand, he said ALI joined the MRT consortium to ensure the smooth flow of traffic to the Makati central business district. However, he said transportation was not ALI's core line of business.

ALI has a 15.8-percent stake in the MRT project, where it had an investment of "a little less than P800 million." When ALI proposed to acquire the 69.6-percent stake held by Metro Pacific Corp. in Bonifacio Land Co., MPC sources said ALI had offered only P500 million plus its stake in the MRT project.

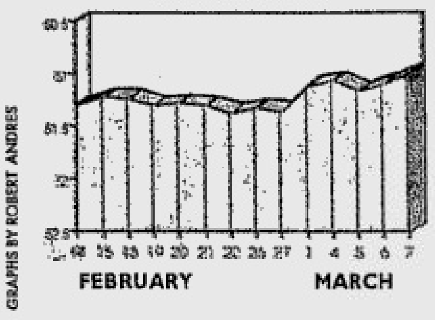
Licuanan said talks between MPC and ALI over the acquisition of the BLC stake had bogged down because the Ayala group believed that the reasonable valuation of the controlling stake in

AYALA/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



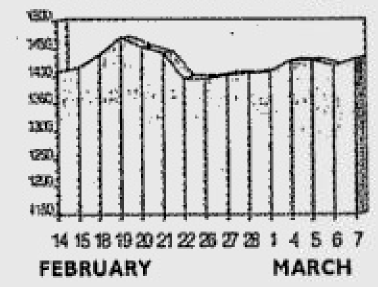
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P50.990 = $1
As of 5 p.m., March 7, 2002

¥129.22 = $1
As of 5 p.m., March 7, 2002

GOLD: $292/292.50
per ounce Hong Kong, March 7, 2002

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCK MARKET

Share prices rise 1%

SHARE prices rose one percent yesterday on bargain-hunting in generally sluggish trading.

"The volume is very thin. You can say it's up but not exactly strong. It could be bargain-hunting," said April Lee of Citisecurities Inc.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 14.02 points to close at 1,432.56.

The volume of shares traded rose to 539.9 million while value fell to P399.8 million from 527.60 million shares worth P469.18 million on Wednesday.

"There is no bad news but there is no good news either. Investors are still disappointed with the (central bank's) decision not to push through with any interest rate cuts," Lee said.

Robert Cano of BPI Securities Inc. agreed there was bargain-hunting.

"We're still waiting for the market to break out of the consolidation phase," he added. *AFP*

Equitable says Vistan offers to resign

VISTAN

EQUITABLE PCI Bank Inc., the Philippines' third largest bank, said yesterday its president and chief executive officer, Deogracias Vistan, had expressed interest to step down.

"The bank's board of directors will be holding its regular monthly meeting tomorrow afternoon. The board plans to take up the matter," it said in a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"We will disclose to the public any developments immediately after the meeting," it added.

The bank is expected to name Rene Buenaventura, currently EVP for retail banking, as the new president.

Vistan's intention to resign was reportedly triggered by disagreements with the Go family—the bank's majority shareholder with a 30-percent stake—particularly over a plan to hike the bank's capital.

The bank revamped its board in May last year following allegations during the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada that Equitable had been used to maintain some of Estrada's secret accounts.

Estrada, who was deposed in a popular revolt in January 2001, is currently on trial for economic plunder which is punishable by death or life in prison. *Reuters*

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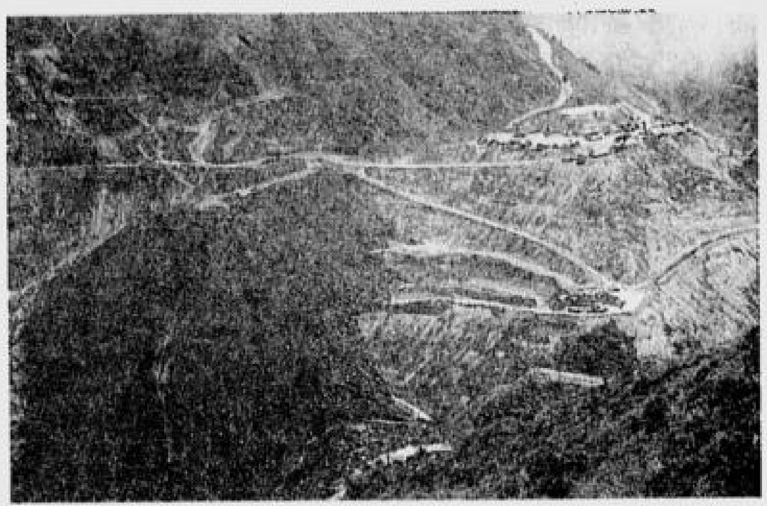
See mailers for details.
*Promo runs until December 31, 2002.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0484, Series of 2002.

GMA urged to support foreign investments in mining sector

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.



MINING operations in Itogon, Benguet

FOREIGN chambers are urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare her unequivocal support to foreign investments in the mining industry, which have the potential to generate $1.2 billion in exports and $640 in capital flows yearly.

In a joint statement, foreign business chambers from the United States, Japan, Australia-New Zealand, Canada, Europe and Korea said the Macapagal administration should issue a strong message that "it is supporting a sustainable, responsible mineral industry in the Philippines and that it welcomes foreign investments in this sector."

The foreign chambers said the President should endorse a National Mineral Policy that would encourage responsible mining among explorers and strengthen the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau's (DENR-MGB) monitoring activities.

The foreign chambers said this should send a strong message to investors that they are welcome in the Philippines and that the DENR-MGB can resolve any problems of mining projects with local government units and nongovernment organizations.

Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (Philippines) Inc. president William Mason said that a strong statement from the President would go a long way in clearing up the politically charged debate on whether the Philippines should allow foreign investors to mine its natural resources.

"The President's support, plus the backing from local leaders, should help us send the message to the people in the mining areas to appreciate the economic potential of a mining project and the vast improvement in safety and environmental protection of mineral exploration," Mason said.

The foreign chambers have likewise asked the government to seek an early resolution of the Supreme Court challenges to the Philippine Mining Act. Mason said foreign investors would not invest in mining here unless this uncertainty is resolved.

Mason is cautiously optimistic that the new administration would be more supportive of the mining industry than the previous administration. He said that Ms Macapagal approved the first mining project in the country (Lafayette Mining Ltd. of Australia is pumping in P2.7 billion for the Rapu-Rapu Island mining project in Albay) since the Mining Act was approved seven years ago.

He said the mining industry had lost the "high ground on economic values" due to a vigorous anti-mining lobby launched by foreign-funded NGOs. This is why, he said, the mining industry has to launch an information campaign to counter any false allegations made by critics.

The Chamber of Mines, a local group of mining firms operating in the Philippines, had said the National Minerals Policy would pave the way for the development of at least five world-class mines and five middle-tier projects that could generate at least $3.2 billion in new investments, $3 billion in annual exports and P30 billion in annual taxes for the next 10 to 20 years.

The group described the investment climate for mining in the country as "decidedly hostile" in view of the legal uncertainty hounding the industry and the "intense misinformation" campaign being waged by anti-mining groups.

BCDA TURNOVER RITES

Outgoing Bases Conversion Development Authority Chair Rogelio L. Singson (left) hands the BCDA flag to incoming chair, Florencio Padernal (right), and new president/CEO Rufo Colayco (center) in a turnover ceremony held at the BCDA Corporate Center recently.

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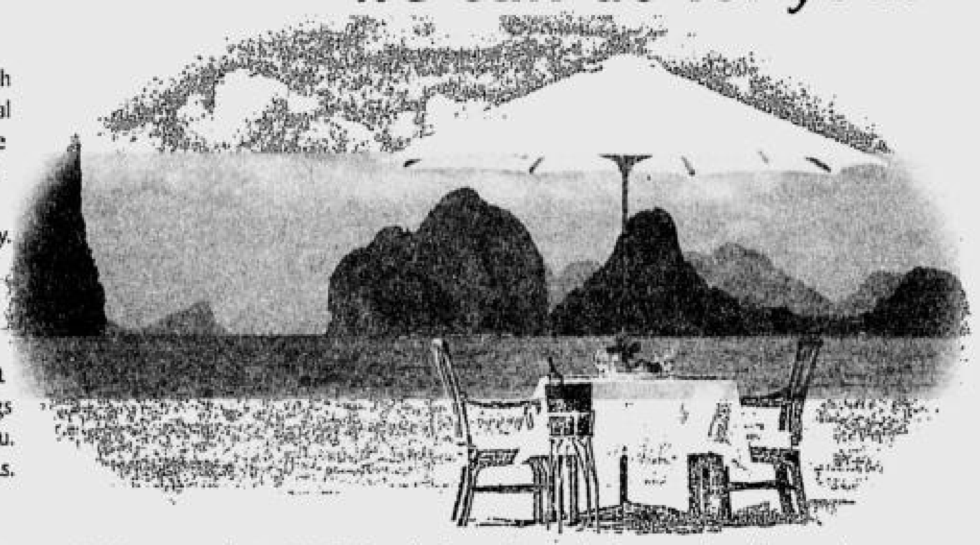

US discussing multilateral open skies deal with Apec

By Abigail L. Ho

THE UNITED STATES is "informally" discussing with member-economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum a multilateral open skies agreement that will give signatories full open skies access, according to US State Department officials.

Six countries are said to be already part of the multilateral agreement. These are the United States, Singapore, Brunei, Chile, New Zealand and Peru.

Under this deal, all air rights restrictions will be waived and all parties in the agreement need not go through the tedious process of negotiating with one country at a time for air service agreements.

"With an open skies agreement, countries will be able to tie their networks with each other. Traffic actually increased for those countries with open skies," a person familiar with the matter said.

The US official did clarify, however, that the United States and the other five signatories in the multilateral open skies agreement were not "forcing" other countries to sign.

"We're not insistent. Take it, if you have to, a step at a time," another US official said.

Another source also said the Philippines could specifically opt not to sign the agreement, but the United States would still be willing to renegotiate its air rights agreement with the country before it expires in September next year.

"We'll be really pleased to start with a bilateral agreement with the Philippines, but it's not a prerequisite to a multilateral agreement," the official said.

Under the country's existing air rights agreements with the United States, a cap is placed on the number of weekly frequencies, chartered flights and flag carriers for both countries. A certain pricing restriction is also strictly observed and the cargo volume is limited as well.

With the multilateral open skies agreement, carriers of participating member-economies could send as many flag carriers to the other countries as often as they want to in a week. They could also charge whatever prices they want, creating market-driven competition instead of the existing regulated environment.

US officials said Washington and Manila had yet to set a date as to when they would renegotiate their air rights agreement.

"We won't ask for one. Anytime they want to talk to us about open skies, we can talk," one of the officials said.

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RP aims to raise $2B worth of soft loans

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration is expecting to raise at least $2 billion in soft loans and assistance from international donors and creditors during a consultative meeting with some 30 members of the donor community next week.

The amount is roughly 23 percent lower than the $2.6 billion worth of financial assistance raised by the Philippine government from donors in 2000 and more than 50 percent down from the 1999 level of $4.5 billion.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said the amount the government was hoping to raise was a realistic target since it was an amount that the country could put to use immediately.

"While it was lower compared with the previous years' levels, we believe that the number represents our absorptive capacity. The amount is realistic and practical," said the finance secretary who will chair this year's consultative meeting.

World Bank country director Robert Vance Pulley will co-chair the annual meeting of the country's donors and creditors.

Camacho said the government would use the event as an opportunity to showcase its economic performance, present development priorities and strategies, and encourage partnerships with the donor-community.

Last year, the country failed to hold a consultative meeting with the donor-community as the government focused on stabilizing the country's political and economic environment.

Camacho said the country still had about $10 billion worth of official development assistance that remained unused.

The country's ODA utilization rate has been below 50 percent.

For not using the ODA funds as scheduled, the government is slapped a commitment fee of less than one percent of the loan yearly from the time it was obtained.

The immediate use of soft loans and financial assistance is hampered by the requirement imposed by most donors for the government to provide in its annual budget counterpart funds for the soft loans.

However, the government has been finding difficulties in raising the counterpart funds due to its budget deficit.

The government will hold its annual donor pledging session on March 11 and 12 to solicit soft loan commitments from multilateral and bilateral agencies, including the World Bank, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and the Asian Development Bank.

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DBP musical chairs

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

IT LOOKS like the contract of DBP president/CEO Remedios Macalincag, which expires today, may be extended anew.

Malacañang apparently has to schedule the timing, more than the choice of candidate, for the replacement of Macalincag, who has been on a holdover capacity at the Development Bank of the Philippines since she reached mandatory retirement age in January.

The frontliner among the rumored replacements now appears to be former Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga Jr., currently the government's representative to the Asian Development Bank board.

Apparently, the game plan goes like this. Paderanga would give up his dollar-denominated sinecure in favor of ex-President Ramos' daughter, investment banker Angel Ramos-Jones.

In return, Paderanga would be named DBP president/CEO, a more demanding but unfortunately less financially rewarding position.

The main hitch in this ADB-to-DBP switch is that Paderanga would need all the staff support he can get since the former Neda director general has absolutely no hands-on banking experience.

Despite having served in the Bangko Sentral's Monetary Board for six years, Paderanga has been limited at the central bank to economic research, monetary policy, and computerization issues, as well as representation in overseas economic forums. These assignments suited him just fine, considering his background as an economist and lecturer.

Lawyers, lawyers

- EX-MARCOS legal counsel Manuel Lazaro told the Senate impeachment court that his client Jaime Dichaves was Jose Velarde and that Dichaves owned the Velarde account in E-PCIBank, remember?

So what happens now that Joseph Estrada finally fessed up on national TV that Estrada is indeed Jose Velarde?

What the public does not know is that Lazaro also happens to be the chief outside legal counsel of the Bangko Sentral, helping the central bank prosecute alleged rogue bankers and banking irregularities.

In other words, a lawyer who represents both the hunter and the hunted in this cat-and-mouse game.

- THIS qualifies in the "Only in the Philippines" department.

Despite having been suspended by then Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara for corruption-related charges and despite still pending disbarment charges, lawyer and ex-Agriculture Undersecretary Mario Raval has been appointed by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines as IBP commissioner for bar discipline.

- DEPUTY Court Administrator Christopher Lock has been appointed by the Supreme Court to investigate the "hoodlums in robes" in Baguio, after his boss, Presbitero Velasco, inhibited himself since the Baguio judges being investigated are all his classmates and friends.

Before inhibiting himself, Velasco cleared one of the judges, ironically, on one of the very cases that Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. now wants Lock to look into.

Heard through the grapevine

THE APPOINTMENT of Rene Buenaventura as president of Equitable-PCIBank (Buenaventura is currently the bank's EVP for retail banking) vice Deogracias Vistan only confirms that the Go family has regained the initiative and the operational control of the bank away from the government and PDIC representatives.

In a sense, Vistan helped write an early finish to his four-year contract after the bank accelerated the repayment of the multibillion-peso advancements it had received from the government during the impeachment bank run. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

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Ayala to sell stake . . .

From page B1

the 150-ha Fort Bonifacio Global City was "not even half" of MPC's asking price of $200 million.

Aside from ALI, other members of the MRTC are Fil-Estate Management, Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp., Greenfield Development Corp., Ramcar Inc., Allante Realty and Development Inc. and DBH Inc.

For its part, ALI is among the few remaining liquid property companies in the country, posting a 24-percent increase in net income to P2.29 billion in 2001 from a year ago, outperforming its parent firm Ayala Corp. whose earnings dropped by 33 percent to P2.1 billion.

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10 vie for 7 PSE seats; list of non-broker directors hit

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has drawn flak for its "arbitrary" process of appointing non-broker representatives to fill up majority of its 15-member board, even as it released yesterday the final list of candidates for the remaining seats allotted to broker-members.

The PSE, which is holding its first board elections under a demutualized regime this Saturday, yesterday released a final list of 10 brokers that would vie for the seven board seats, or a minority block, in the 15-member board.

On the other hand, the eight seats for non-brokers were no longer included in the balloting unlike in previous years when member-brokers had the option to give their vote of confidence or not. Instead, the nomination committee has already narrowed down the non-broker candidates to exactly eight, the required number of seats for private sector representatives under the Securities Regulation Code.

Jose Sison of Ipaglaban Mo Foundation, acting as legal counsel for former PSE president Ramon Garcia, wrote to PSE corporate secretary and chair of the nomination and election committee Edgardo Guevara to protest such a selection process.

In a letter dated Feb. 28, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, Sison said such a decision would "deprive the stockholders of the PSE the opportunity to vote on the candidates of their choice."

Among those "chosen" as non-broker directors for another term were five incumbent directors: PSE president Ernest Leung, economist Cayetano Paderanga, constitutionalist Joaquin Bernas, ABS-CBN chair Eugenio Lopez III and former Meralco president Mario Camacho.

On the other hand, the three new names selected by the committee were: banker Peter Favila, former Petron Corp. chair Monico Jacob and former Customs Commissioner Tomas Apacible.

There were also other brokers who had expressed their opposition to the system of selecting non-brokers to join the board. A broker who spoke on condition of anonymity said it was not only "illegal" but likewise "unethical" to let an arbitrary group to virtually elect majority of the board by themselves.

The broker noted that unlike big corporations like food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. that elect board members through nomination committees, the PSE did not have a standard blueprint yet on how to screen board members.

But PSE sources said these concerns on the arbitrary selection of non-broker representatives were now being addressed and would soon be resolved through an amendment in the PSE's bylaws. They said provisions would be introduced to ensure the democratic election of non-broker representatives to the board.

In the past, the PSE recruited non-broker representatives to the board based on the exact numerical requirement and on an invitation basis. The PSE previously allowed only three non-brokers to sit on the board but in compliance with the SRC, which took effect in August last year, it had to give up majority control in favor of non-brokers.

Meanwhile, there are two slates of broker candidates led by veteran brokers Robert Coyiuto of R. Coyiuto Securities Inc. and Ma. Vivian Yuchengco of The First Management Resources and Management Corp. who are running as PSE chair. Both are incumbent PSE directors while Coyiuto was a former PSE chair.

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Landbank wants 30% stake in proposed AMC

By Elena R. Torrijos

STATE-OWNED Land Bank of the Philippines has asked the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to approve its plan to enter into a 70-30 joint venture in favor of a foreign partner for the disposal of P15 billion to P20 billion of the universal bank's bad assets.

Landbank executive vice president Alfonso Cruz said the bank would hold a bidding to decide on a joint-venture partner as soon as Congress passed the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle bill, which would provide tax breaks and other incentives to ease the cost of banks' asset disposition.

Eight foreign groups have tentatively offered to acquire at least P15 billion in non-performing loans and acquired property of the bank for anywhere from 20 centavos to as much as 30 centavos for every peso of assets.

"We will bid it out as soon as the SPAV bill comes out but we cannot do it before. The bill might improve the discounts," Cruz said.

According to Cruz, the eight foreign groups that have expressed interest in Landbank's bad assets were Cerebus, Colony Capital, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, Salomon Smith Barney, Lone Star, Lehmann Brothers and JP Morgan Chase.

Landbank, however, is encountering difficulty in getting regulators to approve the proposed joint venture.

DISCLOSURES

SAN Miguel Corp. confirmed it received inquiries from firms interested in the 27-percent stake of the government in the company. New directors elected to the company's board were Naomichi Asano and Shigeki Ota, both representing Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine purchased 220,000 of its shares at P0.40 per share.

* * *

AYALA Land Inc. shall change the name of its wholly owned subsidiary, **Five Corners Ventures Corp.** into **Community Innovations Inc.**, which shall be ALI's vehicle into the middle-income urban residential market.

* * *

UNION Cement Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 17, 4:30 p.m. at the Rizal C, Shangri-La Hotel Makati. Stockholders of record as of March 18 shall be entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

FILIPINO Fund Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 14 with record date on March 15. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

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8:00 - 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 - 9:15 am	Welcome Remarks
9:15 - 9:45 am	Keynote Address: Hon. Cong. Teodoro "Teddy Boy" L. Locsin, Jr.
9:45 - 10:15 am	Mac and Myths
10:15 - 11:00 am	Customer Testimony by Mr. David Guerrero *Chairman and Executive Creative Director - BBDO Guerrero Ortega*
11:00 - 11:30 am	Connectivity Challenge
11:30 - 12:45 pm	Lunch/Registration for Seminar Program

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Seminar Program

	Video and Animation	Print & Photography	Digital Lifestyle
12:45 - 1:45 pm	Quicktime Virtual Reality	The Digital Synergy: A Photographer's Experience	Home Movies and DVDs with iMovie and iDVD
1:45 - 2:45 pm	Project M - Softmagic Publishing Solutions for Mac OSX		Music and Images with iTunes and iPhoto
2:45 - 3:45 pm	Final Cut Pro 3	Adobe Print and Web Solutions	Digidesign/Home Studio Music Solution
3:45 - 4:45 pm	3D animation with Maya		Mac Basics
5:15 - 5:30 pm	Closing Remarks and Lucky Draw		

Seminar Program

	Education	Business Solutions A	Business Solutions B
12:45 - 1:45 pm	Richmedia, Internet & Wireless Technology in Today's Classroom	MYOB	OSX Server
1:45 - 2:45 pm	Macintosh in Creative Arts	Quicktime Media Technologies	Domino Everyplace The Power of M-Business
2:45 - 3:45 pm	Mac-PC Connectivity	Discover ArchiCad	Creating Dynamic Website with Filemaker Pro
3:45 - 4:45 pm	Cross Platform: Font and File Management	4 D: Databases and Web Solutions	The New Microsoft: Office Mac v. X
5:15 - 5:30 pm	Closing Remarks and Lucky Draw		

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, March 7, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	6,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	70	69.5	70	447,100
China Banking Corp.	590	590	590	590	50
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32.5	32.5	31.5	32.5	796,800
First E-Bank Corp.	2.3	2.5	2.1	2.3	1,423,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	45	45	43	44	222,800
Philippine National Bank	63	63	63	63	2,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	3,000
Security Bank Corp.	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.75	21.5	20.75	21.5	54,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	20,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1420	1425	1420	1425	1,110
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1075	1080	1075	1080	3,010
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33	33	33	33	76,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.73	0.76	0.73	0.75	13,210,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	800	800	800	16,050
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0675	0.07	0.065	0.065	35,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	11,000
Piltel	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	9,000,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	510	515	510	515	58,400
Ivantage Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	90,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	54,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	32.5	33	32.5	32.5	135,800
Manila Electric Co. B	48.5	49	48.5	48.5	462,100
Petron Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.88	1.9	4,755,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	157,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.65	1,488,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	60,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	300,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.6	0.61	1,630,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	200,000
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	18	18	18	18	2,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	116,000
RFM Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	972,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.8	69,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48	47.5	48	198,400
San Miguel Corp. B	65	66	65	66	358,500
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.55	20,000
Ayala Corp.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	1,044,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.06	2.08	2.06	2.06	1,105,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12	12	12	300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	220,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	450,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.14	520,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	23,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	600,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.75	3.45	3.75	1,090,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.81	0.85	0.81	0.83	14,810,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	110,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	890,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	8,750,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	8,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	32.5	33	32.5	33	585,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.17	700,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.88	7,310,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	11,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	180,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	500,000
Music Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.33	450,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.88	40,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	150,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	610,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.3	420,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	5,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.25	14.25	14	14	428,100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.55	3,070,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.61	630,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	33	33.5	33	33.5	95,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	775	795	775	795	180
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	790	790	790	790	970
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	2,000,000
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PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	2,400
Philweb.Co Inc. -Warrants	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	219,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	7	11,921,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.53	1,570,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	1,630,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	22,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.26	2.3	2.24	2.3	5,157,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	950,000
MRc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	90,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.8	1,954,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	3,800,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	5,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.038	0.04	0.038	0.04	15,500,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.22	390,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	470,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	640,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	40,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	42,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	20,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	4,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	1,600,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.25	0.25	0.21	0.21	330,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	3,085,070	76,276,315.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	414,355,000	211,087,570.00
PRO	27,114,000	110,388,800.00
Mining	23,040,000	1,020,450.00
OIL	70,980,000	670,500.00
GRAND TOTALS :	538,574,070	399,443,635.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	579.56	UP 6.16
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,952.38	UP 11.95
PRO	628.97	UP 12.94
Mining	1,431.82	DOWN 7.55
OIL	1.89	UP 0.02
All Shares Index	776.02	UP 4.57
Composite	1,432.56	UP 14.02

NO. OF ADVANCES: 37; NO. OF DECLINES: 19; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 56; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 112
NO. OF TRADES: 2,531

CURRENCIES

March 7, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.140641	1.000000	51.1420
Japan	Yen	0.008729	0.007653	0.3914
United Kingdom	Pound	1.623360	1.423200	72.7853
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146251	0.128218	6.5573
Switzerland	Franc	0.678105	0.594495	30.4037
Canada	Dollar	0.721559	0.632591	32.3520
Singapore	Dollar	0.625694	0.548546	28.0537
Australia	Dollar	0.593774	0.520562	26.6226
Bahrain	Dinar	3.025734	2.652661	135.6624
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.304163	0.266660	13.6375
Brunei	Dollar	0.623642	0.546747	27.9617
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000101	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.026228	0.022994	1.1760
UAE	Dirham	0.310573	0.272279	13.9249
Korea	Won	0.000874	0.000766	0.0392
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.876700	44.8362
Brazil	Real	0.485379	0.425532	21.7626
Denmark	Kroner	0.134581	0.117987	6.0341
India	Rupee	0.023465	0.020572	1.0521
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.300169	0.263158	13.4584
Mexico	New Peso	0.125756	0.110250	5.6384
New Zealand	Dollar	0.486705	0.426694	21.8220
Norway	Kroner	0.129689	0.113698	5.8147
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019027	0.016681	0.8531
South Africa	Rand	0.103612	0.090837	4.6456
Sweden	Kroner	0.110554	0.096923	4.9568
Syria	Pound	0.022235	0.019493	0.9969
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032655	0.028629	1.4641
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001163	0.00102	0.0522

The meaning of due process

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

VOLUNTARY arbitration, along with mediation and conciliation, is one of the voluntary modes of labor dispute settlement, which under both the Philippine Constitution and the Labor Code, is the preferred mode vis-à-vis the compulsory modes such as compulsory arbitration and adversarial approaches like strikes, lockouts and other concerted actions.

The central thrust in voluntary arbitration is to liberate both labor and management from the pernicious evils of delays and technicalities, which are the bane that exacerbate the sufferings of the labor class as well as the businessmen from the burdens of unreasonable litigation costs and attorneys' fees.

Labor justice still delayed

In the case of Unicraft (GR 134903), decided on Jan. 16, 2002, it is demonstrated that despite the heroic efforts of voluntary arbitrators, the magic of technicalities as well as the bureaucratic procedures all worked together to delay the case, to the great prejudice of the litigants.

The case was filed in July 1995, albeit with the NLRC, a wrong forum, referred to the arbitrator on 11 October 1996, decided on 15 March 1997. The decision was in favor of the workers. It was elevated to the Court of Appeals by management and disposed of by that court on 22 April 1997. It was raised to the Supreme Court by management.

The high court decided to annul the decision of the arbitrator on 26 March 2001 and remanded the case to the arbitrator for reception of evidence. The workers moved for reconsideration on 15 May 2001, and filed a supplemental motion to reconsider on 30 July 2001 and a second supplemental motion on 06 September 2001.

The majority's view: No due process

It was a split decision, with three out of five justices ruling that the company was denied due process when the arbitrator decided the case after the management's repeated failure to appear despite due notice. They relied heavily on a stipulation wherein the parties agreed to remand the case "so that the petitioner will be granted their day in court to prove their case."

Arbitrator Calipay, however, refused to take cognizance of the remanded case declaring that he has lost jurisdiction over the case, after he rendered judgment therein. What complicated the case was the Court of Appeals' decision to order the partial execution of the decision with respect to the award of separation pay and attorney's fees.

Dissenting view

Justice R. Puno, a respected legal luminary, wrote a seven-page dissenting opinion. It is noteworthy to observe that no less than Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. joined Justice Puno's dissent, instead of concurring with the majority.

The dissenters observed that, based on facts on record, the company was not denied due process. After initial hearings, it filed a position paper before the NLRC. In a hearing on 23 January 1997, it was represented by its counsel.

On 21 January 1997, Arbitrator Calipay granted both parties ample time up to 07 February 1997 within which to file their responsive pleadings. On 10 February 1997, the arbitrator allowed more time for the filing of the position papers until 17 February 1997. The workers complied. Management failed.

Default, no denial

On 20 February 1997, a hearing was conducted by Arbitrator Calipay. Despite due notice, neither management nor its counsel appeared. The arbitrator set another hearing for 03 March 1997. The workers and their lawyer appeared. Management and counsel failed again.

This led the arbitrator to decide the case on the basis of records. He ruled that the workers were dismissed illegally and ordered the payment of backwages, separation pay and all money claims including attorney's fees. Thus, the dissenters concluded that there was no denial of due process. This writer joins in the opinion expressed by Justice Puno.

The essence of due process

Justice Puno stressed: "The essence of due process in administrative proceedings is simply an opportunity to explain one's side or an opportunity to seek reconsideration of an action or ruling complained of. With the above as the standard of due process, the dissent stresses that despite two extensions, the company still failed to submit evidence. What is blatant is that the company did not even care to explain its failure to comply with the arbitrator's orders.

It was specified thus: "Due process is not violated where one is given the opportunity to be heard, but chooses not to give his side. Justice Puno made it very categorical: Thus, the fundamental rule of due process that mandated noted and opportunity to be heard has been sufficiently met in this case."

The writer's view

With due respect to the majority's view, this writer submits that Justice Puno and Chief Justice Davide were correct in upholding the arbitrator. It is unfortunate that, in a narrowly split decision, the constitutional mandate of preference for voluntary arbitration has been somehow negated. Also, the statutory policy enunciated in the Labor Code, has been set aside in favor of technicalities and delay.

Workers' options

In the face of this procedural deadlock, where shall the workers go to seek redress for their long pending dispute? Do we drive them away to seek justice from the barrel of the gun or to ask the NPA to administer a better and speedier quality of justice? We don't advocate this. But it seems that we are not giving the workers much choice.

What happens here is obnoxious to the orderly administration of justice, to borrow the words of the high court in another case. Due process should not be used to deny justice. It must be precisely to uphold what is right in the most expeditious manner.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)

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Napocor debts to hit ₱310B, says Psalm

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. yesterday said National Power Corp.'s total debts reached about P310 billion ($6.07 billion) last year, up 6.16 percent from P292 billion in 2000.

Psalm president Edgardo del Fonso told reporters that multilateral and bilateral loans accounted for 57 percent or P176.7 billion of the total amount.

"These are mostly loans from the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation," he said. "This (the debt figure) is still unaudited."

Del Fonso added that about P87.8 billion of the total obligations represented loans from private banks and P46.5 billion from the bond market.

"We will keep refinancing the P310 billion and that it will take a long time as there are loans whose maturity extends to 2028," the Psalm chief said.

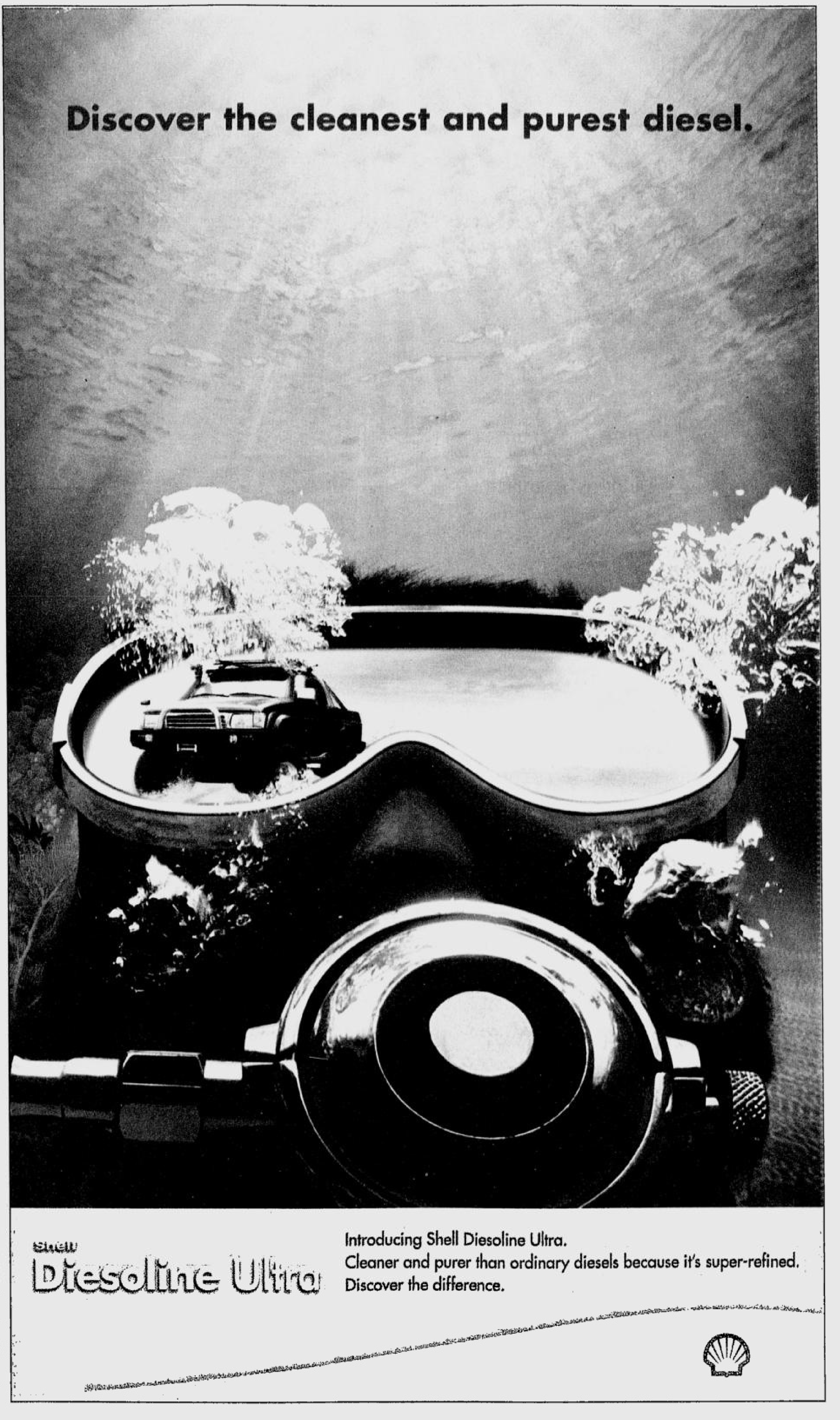
Since Psalm's corporate life, according to the law, will end by 2026, the finance department or a new company may take over the balance of these loans, Del Fonso said.

Also, the official explained that the National Treasury's statement that Napocor's funding needs for this year have gone up to $1.5 billion from $1 billion was an estimate based on many assumptions.

"One factor is the taxes associated with the sale of its assets," he explained.

"We will not know the actual amount of Napocor's funding requirements until June or July," Del Fonso said.

The national government has secured $750 million for Napocor so far.



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CMG salutes its agents and managers who have shown an exceptional sales performance. An equally exceptional reward awaits them: all-expense paid trips to Phuket and Bangkok, Thailand; trophies and cash incentives to be awarded in a special ceremony in Makati Shangri-La Hotel. All these for helping more people plan ahead, get ahead.

To the 2001 Sales Excellence Awardees, we are proud you're on our team. May you always be the agents of excellence.

Messages

ATTY. EDUARDO T. MALINIS
Commissioner
Office of the Insurance Commission

With its sustained growth in the face of economic turbulence, the Financial Services Industry has demonstrated that we can conquer obstacles and continue to reach higher grounds.

Through the collaborative endeavor of a good company like CMG and a group of dedicated individuals like its Year 2001 top sales achievers, the financial services industry will surely achieve its goal in securing the Filipinos' future.

I send my very best wishes to CMG and to the Annual Awards winners. May your determination to serve and your fervor for excellence inspire your colleagues in the industry to ascend to greater heights in the years to come.

Congratulations and more power.

SHANE MCNALLY
President
CMG of Australia

The year 2001 has been a banner year for CMG. For the first time ever, our premium income exceeded the Php 1 Billion mark. We just had another year of service and excellence and another year of bringing financial security and stability to more Filipino families.

As we take pride in the achievement of our organization, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate CMG's Year 2001 top sales achievers. An extraordinary team of men and women who have devoted their time and effort to advance the true value of care and love for family through protection and security.

By striving to be the best in your field, you have greatly contributed to the growth of your company and the success of the industry. Keep up the good work and keep the faith and confidence of our clients foremost in your heart.

Congratulations and may your passion for excellence

BAMBI VILLAMOR
Senior Vice President
Individual Sales

I wish to extend my very best wishes to the ever-vibrant men and women of CMG on the occasion of our Annual Awards Ceremonies for the winners of the Year 2001 Rewards and Recognition Program.

Heartfelt congratulations are in order for the Sales Excellence Awardees, the Million Dollar Round Table Qualifying Members, the Century Achievers Club winners and the Experience Asia (Phuket-Bangkok trip) winners. Your individual achievements speak well of your professionalism, dedication and determination to perform beyond your own personal bests.

I am proud and pleased for having the great chance to have worked with a distinguished team of sales champions.

Sales Exce

Bella Co
Milestone Insurance Services - Bi
Sales Associate of the Year

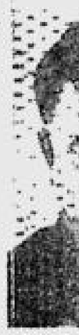
Lim King Uy
Long Life Insurance Agency - B
Unit Manager of the Year

Million Dollar R

Bella Co
Milestone Insurance Se
Binondo

Century Achievers

Silver Category


Rafael A

Trip to Phuket and B

Bella Co
Milestone Insurance Services
Binondo

John Wu

Emerita La Chica
Grant Insurance Agency
Millennium - Metro I

Samuel Flo

CMG

...of Australia

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CMG Life Insurance Co., Inc. • CMG Plans, Inc. • CMG Health Co., Inc.

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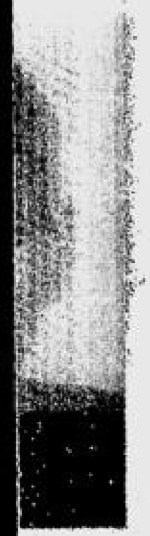
llence Awards

nondo

John Wu
Long Life Insurance Agency - Binondo
First Runner Up,
Sales Associate of the Year

Angelina San
Foundation Life Insurance Agency-Binondo
Second Runner Up,
Sales Associate of the Year

Rafael Artita
A. Artita Area - Omega Region
Metro I
Rookie Sales Associate of the Year



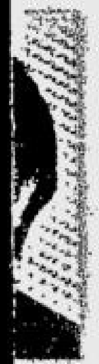
inondo

Anselma Artita
Omega Region - Metro I
Area Manager of the Year

Robert Yu
Long Life Insurance Agency - Binondo
General Agent of the Year

Alma Morales-Gonzalez
Omega Region - Metro I
Regional Manager of the Year

ound Table (MDRT) Qualifiers



vices.

John Wu
Long Life Insurance Agency
Binondo

Angelina San
Foundation Life
Insurance Agency
Binondo

Rafael Artita
A. Artita Area
Omega Region
Metro I

Rosa To Uy
Long Life
Insurance Agency
Binondo

Gloria Sonsing
Long Life
Insurance Agency
Binondo

s Club

rtita
Area
egion - Metro I

Bronze Category

Magno Lopez
Grant Insurance Agency
Millennium - Metro I

Joseline Capucion
D. Rivera Area – Achievers
Metro II

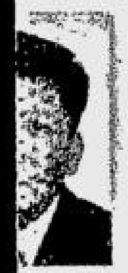
Juanita Angulo
R. Aves Area - Goalsetters
South Luzon

Judy Zafra
E. Fuentecilla Area – Achievers
Metro II

Julita Tamayao
Excellence Life
Binondo

Nadjie Veluz-Abueg
E. La Chica Area - Pioneer
Metro II

angkok Qualifiers (Sales Associate's Level)



urance Agency

Angelina San
Foundation Life Insurance
Agency - Binondo

Rafael Artita
A. Artita Area
Omega Region - Metro I

Rosa To Uy
Long Life Insurance
Agency - Binondo

Nadjie Veluz-Abueg
E. La Chica Area - Pioneer
Metro II

Rita Roque
AR Insurance Agency, Inc.
Binondo

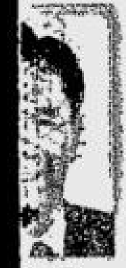
Aida Tan
AR Insurance Agency, Inc.
Binondo

Nenita Yamuta
North Mindanao
Vis-Min

Gloria Sonsing
Long Life Insurance Agency
Binondo

Mariebeth Co
Golden Age Insurance Services
Binondo

Mary Grace delos Reyes
E. Fuentecilla Area - Achievers
Metro II



- Omega

Shirley de Vera
Lipa Branch – Metro East
South Luzon

Delinda Alzaga
E. Calla & Associates
Binondo

Lee Kun Wong
Golden Age Insurance Services
Binondo

Errol Natividad
North Mindanao
Vis-Min

Alice Camaganacan
Tagum Branch
Vis-Min

Eli Trinidad
Cebu
Vis-Min

Imelda Samson
R. Aquino Area – Mentors
Metro II

Pacita Tan
Milestone Insurance
Services - Binondo

Primitiva Guerrero
North Mindanao
Vis-Min

Lorena Hermoso
Z. Punzalan Area - Omega
Metro I

(Unit Manager's Level)

Lim King Uy
Long Life Insurance
Agency – Binondo

Bella Co
Milestone Insurance
Services – Binondo

Benigno Alcaraz
Cebu
Vis-Min

Rafael Artita
A. Artita Area - Omega
Metro I

Jerome San
Foundation Life Insurance
Agency – Binondo

Nenita Yamuta
North Mindanao
Vis-Min

Horacio Reyes, Jr.
E. La Chica Area - Pioneer
Metro II

Anita de Guzman
E. Fuentecilla Area - Achievers
Metro II

Aurora Natividad
North Mindanao
Vis-Min

Samuel Flores
A. Flores Area - Omega
Metro I

(General Agent's/ Area Manager's Level)

Robert Yu
Long Life Insurance Agency
Binondo

Leonel Ramos
Foundation Life
Insurance Agency - Binondo

Antonio Tan
Milestone Insurance Services
Binondo

Elenita Fuentecilla
Achievers Region
Metro II

Anselma Artita
Omega Region
Metro I

(Regional Manager's Level)

Alma Morales -Gonzalez
Omega Region
Metro I

Global recovery at risk if steel spat blows up

BRUSSELS—US trade tariffs on steel imports pose a threat to the global economic recovery, more because of the risk that these could spark a tit-for-tat trade war than the damage they will inflict on the industry.

Steel makes up a small share of manufacturing, which itself accounts for a shrinking slice of industrial countries' output.

President George W. Bush's decision to impose tariffs of up to 30 percent on imported steel, however, risks triggering a wave of trade protectionism that will, say analysts, be in no country's interests.

This will take a heavy toll on global trade growth, which has just suffered one of its worst years in a quarter of a century as a result of a sharp global economic slowdown.

Coming less than four months after the much trumpeted breakthrough on global trade liberalization in Doha, the row also risks hurting business confidence as firms around the world are deciding whether to rebuild depleted stocks and invest anew.

"It would be very disruptive for the global economy if we had a trade war, particularly at this juncture," said Yilmaz Akyuz, director of globalization and development strategies division at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

"It would be bad for business confidence and it would not help recovery."

The direct impact of the US steel tariffs on global trade is likely to be very limited, analysts say.

This is true, even for the European Union, the world's largest steel producer and, according to European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, the biggest victim of the US levy.

EU exports of iron and steel account for 0.2 percent of the 15-member bloc's economic output, Deutsche Bank estimates.

"Movies may be more important than steel when it comes to US-EU trade," said Peter von Maydell, senior strategist at Credit Suisse First Boston in London.

Any downturn in the steel industry induced by a trade war is also likely to have little impact on the wider job market, with the number employed in the industry in the EU accounting for roughly 1.5 percent of those employed in manufacturing.

However, the steel spat could turn into a wider trade conflict, and business sentiment may be hit even by the specter of such a war, analysts said.

"Trade in steel is significant but not a major sector, but anything which affects business sentiment will be very bad at this point," said Paul Brenton, senior research fellow at the Center for European Policy Studies.

"It comes at a bad time and if it encourages retaliation elsewhere in the world, the environment for trade is going to become much worse." *Reuters*

Good politics, bad policy

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush's decision to slap substantial tariffs on imported steel may help his fellow Republicans in upcoming elections, but analysts are calling it bad trade policy, particularly for a self-styled champion of free trade.

"This creates a lot of problems," said Stuart Eizenstat, a former deputy treasury secretary in the Clinton administration who is now in private practice.

Not only will the European Union and other trading partners challenge the decision at the World Trade Organization, but the move will increase pressure on the EU to impose hefty sanctions on the United States in a separate dispute over US tax breaks for exporters, Eizenstat said.

Clyde Prestowitz, president of the Economic Strategy Institute, said the tariff hikes actually would do little in the long run to help the US steel industry. They will, however, alienate US allies at a time when the United States needs support in the war on terrorism, he said.

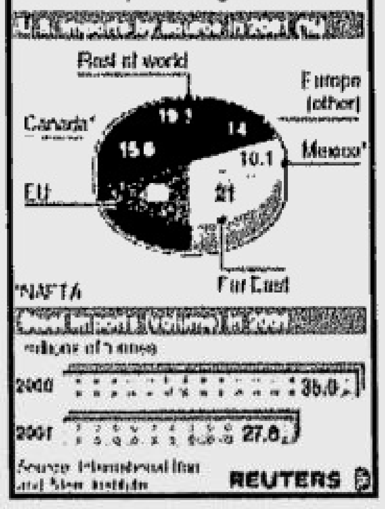
It also will complicate efforts to forge a Western Hemisphere free-trade zone by 2005 and reach new agreements in the WTO by the same date, analysts said.

Eizenstat called the tariffs "smart politics but bad trade policy." The decision may have improved Bush's odds in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio in the 2004 presidential election, and chances for Republican lawmakers in this year's congressional elections.

Ironically, by restricting the steel imports, he may have increased the likelihood that Congress will give him trade promotion authority to forge new trade deals around the world. *Reuters*

WORLD STEEL IMPORTS

The decision by the United States on Tuesday to slap hefty tariffs on steel imports was condemned by the world's top steel producers who said the move undermined the ideals of free trade preached by Washington



FOREIGN BRIEFS

US labor bleak

WASHINGTON—The US economy is showing signs of recovery, but the outlook for the labor market will likely be dreary for several more months, economists say.

Friday's closely watched employment report is expected to show that companies were slow to hire or to create new jobs in February even as the broader economy began to improve.

"The economy is clearly moving forward, the only question is when does it translate into job gains?" said Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisers in Holland, Pa.

More than a million jobs have been erased since the slump that began last spring, most in October and November after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Economists predict that the magnitude and speed of the job cuts, coupled with the battering of sectors such as high-tech and manufacturing, mean the labor market will not expand until the second half of this year at the earliest. *Reuters*

World Bank on aid

WASHINGTON—World Bank head James Wolfensohn blasted rich countries on Wednesday for their stingy aid budgets and urged them to come to a speedy agreement on loan financing for the world's poorest countries.

His speech came a day after EU governments failed to reach agreement on aid targets and as a dispute between the United States and Europe continued to hold up a crucial deal on fund for the International Development Association, the bank's low cost lending arm that gives money to the neediest countries.

"Rich countries must recognize that even with action on trade, or agricultural subsidies, there is still a fundamental need to boost resources for developing countries," Wolfensohn said in a speech at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars.

He suggested a phased-in increase in aid of $10 billion a year over the next five years, building to an extra $50 billion a year in year five. *Reuters*

HP-Compaq merger

SAN FRANCISCO—The hotly contested acquisition of Texas computer maker Compaq by Hewlett-Packard received a pair of approvals Wednesday.

The US Federal Trade Commission Wednesday said it would not contest the purchase of Compaq.

Also on Wednesday, Compaq announced its shareholders have been advised to vote in favor of the HP buyout by influential proxy firm Institutional Shareholder Services, which advises large institutions how to place their stock market purchases.

The FTC commissioners voted 5-0 for the HP-Compaq deal, the agency said in a statement released late Wednesday. *AFP*

A RUSSIAN woman is reflected in the glass as she looks at poultry at a market in Moscow. Russia's Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov said the country could cancel a threat to ban US poultry on safety concerns if documentation sent from the United States satisfied Russian agriculture officials. REUTERS

Mahathir urges Japan, Korea to find post-war spirit

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad urged Japan and South Korea on Thursday to energize Asia's flagging economies by finding again the post-war spirit that made them powerhouses.

Mahathir, who is Asia's longest-serving leader, told a conference on the continent's economic future that the lingering effects of the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis appeared to have shattered Asia's self-confidence.

"Today, one hardly remembers the halycon days when the East Asian countries were set to conquer the world," Mahathir said. "All of them are in distress and some apparently cannot recover, try as they might."

The two-day gathering brings together business and trade leaders to discuss Asia's prospects amid fallout from the Sept. 11 attacks, attempts to create an East Asian economic zone, and the new round of global trade talks launched last year in Doha, Qatar.

Mahathir noted that the East Asian countries had emerged from devastation after World War II and the Korean War and built economies admired by the world.

But Japan, the dynamo whose investments funded Asia's other formerly fast-growing economies, remains mired in a decade-long stagnation, while South Korea's post-Asian crisis reform drive has run out of steam.

Mahathir questioned why these countries "are now so incapable of repeating their past performance, repeating the magic that propelled their devastated economies to become economic tigers and dragons."

The Malaysian leader, who has long cast a skeptical eye on the fully-open-market policies advocated by Western countries and institutions, said that "there is no one prescription for all illnesses."

"There should be other ways which can make business and economic management acceptable and yet not to be so disruptive," Mahathir said.

Taking deregulation as an example, Mahathir claimed that customer service and safety standards had suffered in the airline industry because of constant price-cutting.

Mahathir said that the increased tariffs on steel imports imposed by President George W. Bush to protect US steel producers showed that commitment to free trade will crumple under domestic pressure.

"This is just a manifestation of a problem that everyone faces," Mahathir said. "Of course, we are not happy." *AP*

Asia's new business model slowly swaps ties for rules

TOKYO—Progress is erratic, but many Asian governments are gradually laying the foundations for a return to robust growth by discarding the traditional business model that puts relationships before rules, a study said.

In a review of the business climate in 12 Asian economies, the Economic Analytical Unit of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said the lure of rules-based business was growing as Asia grapples with failed investments and bad debts spawned by cozy links between banks and family-run firms.

"In many East Asian economies, including Japan and China, high non-performing loan levels indicate the serious failure of relationship-based business models. This poor use of loans and shareholders' funds has shaken confidence in many East Asian economies; for growth to return, new approaches are vital."

The report, which was released on Thursday, said this lesson was sinking in, with most governments adopting new legal, regulatory and market frameworks and encouraging better corporate governance.

Some are changing their laws to encourage deeper share markets and greater participation by institutional investors.

"If regional governments reinforce the momentum of change under way in East Asia's corporate sectors, market and regulatory reforms eventually should deliver a more predictable rules-based business environment in the region," it said.

Too often, though, governments are failing to implement new laws and regulations. The result is that investors remain wary, competition is stifled and the cost of capital is higher than it should be.

"If emerging regional economies cannot overcome vested interests and correct legal and regulatory system weaknesses, business may be forced to revert to the old relationship-based approach. This could slow economic recovery and constrain long-term growth prospects," the report warned.

For instance, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand have passed new bankruptcy laws, but in order to drive rapid corporate restructuring, they require effective courts to take assets away from politically powerful owners.

"Overcoming these interests requires considerable political will," said the report, called "Changing Corporate Asia. What Business Needs to Know." *Reuters*

All eyes on Fed chair as upbeat data pour in

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan is set to testify on the US economy on Thursday with markets in suspense about what kind of spin he will offer on the recent run of upbeat economic data.

Some economists think that when the Fed chief gives part two of his semiannual monetary policy testimony before the Senate banking committee at 10 a.m., his tone may differ a bit from Feb. 27, when he delivered the first part to the House of Representatives financial services panel.

"I think Greenspan's going to be more optimistic," said Greg Valliere, managing director at Schwab Washington Research. "This economy is not going to have a wimpy recovery. I think it's going to be robust."

If the Fed chair puts heavy emphasis on the potential for a solid economic recovery, some analysts might interpret that as a signal the central bank may be mulling a reversal of last year's 11 interest rate cuts.

On the other hand, some experts said the Fed may not be in any rush to even consider pushing up borrowing costs with the outlook still uncertain for some key areas of the economy, such as business demand for capital equipment.

Typically, Greenspan delivers identical versions of his formal monetary testimony to both the House and Senate committees, then fields whatever questions lawmakers have. *Reuters*

Fed Beige Book says US economy on its way back

WASHINGTON—The US economy is showing signs of recovery and even the battered jobs market may have hit bottom, the Federal Reserve Beige Book survey said Wednesday.

"A majority of Federal Reserve districts report some signs of improvement in economic conditions in January and early February," it said.

Manufacturing was weak but some industries were improving, the report said. Labor markets were slack but temporary employment firms suggested the decline in some areas was coming to an end.

The Beige Book survey summarizes information collected by the 12 districts of the Federal Reserve System. It is released eight times a year.

The report, which will be on the table when Federal Reserve policymakers meet March 19 to consider interest rates, supports growing optimism among economists that the United States is out of recession.

Many experts and policymakers even argue the country may have escaped a recession last year. *AFP*

Wine dealers in China are hoping market will get finer with age

CHINESE shoppers look at rows of wine at a supermarket in Shanghai. REUTERS

SHANGHAI—Foreign winemakers beware: those hoping to tempt China's 1.3 billion people with their Shiraz or Chardonnay had better be ready for a quirky market.

China has promised to slash staggering tariffs on imported vintages now that it is a World Trade Organization member, bringing hope to winemakers that a bottle of California Chablis is closer to the reach of the country's growing middle class.

But it's not a business for the faint of heart.

Chinese drinkers have been known to take their red wine on the rocks or down full glasses in a race to "ganbei"—dry one's cup—in bouts of toasts.

Others chase their wine with lemonade, or mix the two into a fizzy pink cocktail to liven up an evening of karaoke.

"Halfway through a wine dinner with a supplier the table will start ganbei-ing full glasses of really wonderful wine," said Shanghai-based importer Don St. Pierre Junior of ASC Fine Wines, who sells wine to most of China's top hotels.

"The responses from suppliers have ranged from joining in to leaving the table."

Wines from a handful of countries are already available on supermarket shelves in China's increasingly rich, large cities such as coastal boomtowns Shanghai, Xiamen and Shenzhen.

But domestic vineyards still dominate as precious few folk can afford to guzzle Bordeaux in China, where foreign wines can be six or seven times the price of Chinese ones.

Since WTO entry in December, wine import duties are already down to 37.5 percent from 65 percent, and are set to dip to 10 percent by 2005. Importers hope to be able to tap the mass public after years of being wedged into a tiny, elite market.

"What we're hoping to do is to expand the range of wines available at 55 yuan ($6.65)," said St. Pierre.

"But we're never going to get down to the 25 to 35-yuan level where many local consumers make their decisions."

Most price-conscious drinkers prefer Chinese names like Dynasty, Yantai Changyu and Great Wall, thanks to rock-bottom prices and an easy familiarity with the brands. *Reuters*

W. SyCip
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AIM pays tribute to Washington SyCip, the indomitable spirit behind the Institute – an industrialist, businessman, philanthropist and manager par excellance.

AIM names the Graduate School of Business in honor of Mr. SyCip as a salute to his lifelong involvement in socio-civic affairs and his dedication to fostering management education in the region.

Messages

It is with great pleasure that I greet Mr. Washington SyCip for this honor bestowed on him by the Asian Institute of Management (AIM). His illustrious career, his modesty, his unwavering commitment to quality management education are just some of the qualities found in this man often referred to as the "man to know in Asia". I also wish to congratulate the administration and faculty of the AIM for its meritorious efforts in making its school the best management school in the region.

The twenty-first century is the era of information technology. Economic prosperity is determined more and more by the ability of a nation to harness and develop the intellectual resources of its people. In the attainment of our common vision of economic progress and stability, our people are called upon to lead the country by equipping themselves with the knowledge and skills necessary for the advancement of our society.

While we continue to strengthen the foundations of our economy by ensuring the sufficiency and accessibility of basic needs and services, it is in broadening and nurturing our skills and technological capability that we shall be able to translate our investments into sustainable gains and social transformation.

I call upon the administration, faculty and students of the Asian Institute of Management to continue their dedication to academic excellence and the molding of our people into responsible achievers and leaders. Let us work together in providing quality education and youth development as an investment in the nation's future.

The new name W. SyCip Graduate School of Business should inspire our students to seek the path of greatness, to give justice to the man whose work has made a difference in our society.

Once again, congratulations and Mabuhay!

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines

For three decades, the Asian Institute of Management has been committed to developing managers and leaders who can rise to the challenges of regional and international change while applying the unique values of the Asian entrepreneur.

With the naming of the W. SyCip Graduate School of Business as a tribute to Washington SyCip and his various associates from all over the world who have dedicated themselves to fostering management education in the region, we can look forward to enhancing the Institute's capacity to train and produce the world's future leaders., as well as provide more opportunities for deserving men and women to deepen their understanding of business and development in the Asian context.

We thank Washington SyCip, his family and friends who have devoted their time and personal resources to ensure that AIM enhances its capability as the top graduate management school in the region.

Jose L. Cuisia, Jr.
Co-Chairman, AIM

Since its establishment thirty-four years ago, the Asian Institute of Management has continuously evolved from being a purely business school into a full-spectrum management institute. Today, it remains the premier graduate school of Asia reputed to hone men and women of action — agents of change deeply immersed in the Asian milieu but fully equipped to withstand the tremors of globalization.

As AIM names the W. SyCip Graduate School of Business as the distinct home-base of the Master in Business Management and Master in Management programs, it renews its commitment to shape the future of management in the Asian region. The generosity and support of the family, friends and associates of Washington SyCip from all over the world have ensured that the MBM and MM programs, faculty and students continue to be at par with the managerial demands of Asia's increasingly volatile and competitive business environment.

We extend our profound gratitude to them, whose contribution is a legacy that will not only bring the Institute to new and unexplored heights, but strengthen its influence in the development of Asian societies.

ROBERTO F. DE OCAMPO
President, AIM

The naming of the W.SyCip Graduate School of Business in honor of Washington SyCip, the visionary, reflects fundamental developments in AIM's Master in Business Management and Master in Management programs.

We have seen the needs in management education evolve through the years and we have responded with a vision of producing the 'AIM Renaissance Manager' for Asia.

The 'AIM Renaissance Manager' is the result of an MBM/MM program designed, firstly, with content relevant to Asia's dynamic business environment and secondly, with an innovative system of course delivery.

The outcome is a generation of leaders steeped in Asian values and culture and proficient in its unique business systems, re-engineered for the New Economy and endowed with a global perspective.

But above everything else, the AIM graduate is a humanist and this we owe to Washington SyCip whose unique humanity continues to show us the path to self-development and the development of Asian peoples.

Dean Eduardo A. Morato, Jr.
Dean of the Institute

The naming of the Graduate School of Business in honor of Washington SyCip will be conducted by the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees in a dinner launching tonight, March 8, 2002, 6:30 p.m. at the SGV Conference Hall at the third floor of the AIM Conference Center, Traslerra cor. Benavidez Sts., Makati City.

W. SyCip Graduate School of Business Asian Institute of Management

When it comes to forging relations across cultures, blending leadership styles, and deepening the understanding of Asian business, the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) is right on target. Asia's business leaders and management schools rank AIM as one of the best MBA schools in the world. In Asia, AIM is acclaimed as one of the top MBA schools and leader in the Executive MBA.

Master in Business Management (MBM)

Since 1970, more than 3,000 young men and women from over 40 countries have graduated from the two-year Master in Business Management (MBM) program. MBM graduates are professional, mature managers strong in functional competencies while generalist in orientation. They are globally adept, with special focus and expertise on Asian cultures and management styles.

AIM's learning methodology is highly interactive, requiring students to prepare, analyze and discuss three to four case studies every day, and to engage in extended hands-on activities. These activities require students to work independently and with groups to synthesize the knowledge and skills gained throughout the program.

The MBM program prepares graduates to work hard, and strengthens their abilities to see problems and opportunities from both a tactical and strategic perspective. Students become biased towards action and skillful at implementation. Moreover, the MBM graduate is versatile, comfortable working with both numbers and people, and sees the big picture as well as the details.

Curriculum Overview

During the entire two-year program, MBM students work on more than 700 case studies and gain first-hand exposure to Asian business through the Action Consultancy internship. Students are also required to write and defend a Management Research Report in Year II of the Master's program. The MBM Program offers majors in Finance and Marketing to equip students with specialized expertise in these functional areas.

The MBM also provides the students the opportunity to spend a term in one of AIM's partner business schools in Asia, Australia, Europe or North America through the International Student Exchange Program.

The Action Consultancy is a six-week internship in a company where the student becomes part of the actual management team, but functions as an external consultant. The consultancy allows the student to undertake a project, evaluate a management process, assess a business opportunity, conduct an audit, run and improve a program, or formulate a functional strategy.

The Management Research Report (MRR) requires intensive analysis and integrates the skills and understanding acquired throughout the program. The research may take the form of a Corporate Strategy or a Feasibility Study. Other report formats are acceptable provided that they are integrative, challenging in scope and level of difficulty, and involve research for enterprise development or corporate positioning. Students may also opt to do a business venture along with the requisite research and documentation.

The MBM Major in Finance prepares students for areas such as the valuation of investment opportunities, financial planning, budgeting, control, and fund management. Through the "Supervised Program," students concentrate on Finance and Economics subjects and take a programmed set of electives in Year II. Finance Majors do either their research or internship in this area of study. Of the total electives required for MBM students, six must be completed in the area of Finance and Economics.

The MBM Major in Marketing provides the students with the skills and expertise on the functional and strategic aspects of marketing management. Its curriculum builds on the foundations of the marketing discipline with a programmed set of electives that includes the key integrative areas as well as the cutting edge areas of marketing and its sub-disciplines; all these are designed to equip the students with relevant, intensive, and well-rounded training.

Master in Management (MM) Decision-Maker Strategist Leader

A Course on Business Leadership & Strategic Management.

Complete and comprehensive, the 11-month Master in Management (MM) builds on the key managerial and leadership competencies of the experienced manager, in preparation for greater responsibilities. It broadens his perspectives and equips him with tools needed to manage problems and opportunities, in order to bring the organization forward to greater heights of performance. It integrates his experience in a functional area with the fields where he has less involvement and exposure, to make him the complete leader.

Intensive and thorough, the MM Program:
- Covers the core functions of management
- Develops key managerial skills and effective leadership
- Includes hands-on projects

The learning process revolves around three academic modules, each carrying a basic theme, as follows:

First Module
The leader as decision-maker and trailblazer

Second Module
The leader as strategist

Third Module
The leader as visionary, implementor, and mentor.

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Submission of documents from overseas applicants	March 29, 2002	March 29, 2002
Submission of documents from local applicants	April 30, 2002	April 30, 2002
PRE-MBA	May 27, 2002 - July 5, 2002	April 15, 2002 - May 24, 2002
Registration	July 8-10, 2002	May 29-31, 2002
Start of Classes	July 15, 2002	June 3, 2002
Graduation	2004 May	2003 May

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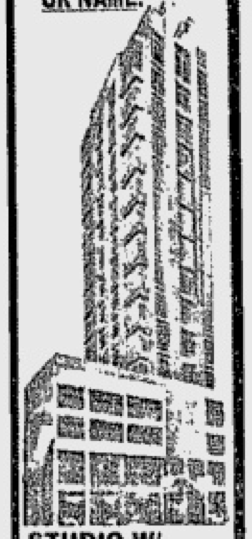

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F-ESCORT-0917-9593176

Secretary S 21-25 yrs old Nr Nova QC Luk 4 Carol 4173888

MALE/FEMALE

Ofc Staff 18-45yrs old w/ w/out exp Start ASAP 9134470 Rodny

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280730

•Ofc Staff 9134470 Lanie•

OFC STAFF 9134470 KRAFT

Ofc Staff 9134470 Ms. Abby

WNTD LIC. C.E. & ARCHITECT pls. send resume to U-443 Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower Pio del Pilar Makati T#8170838/ 43/4812

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of BENJAMIN C. GUTIERREZ has been extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc. No. 21; Page No. 6; Book No. III; Series of 2002 of Notary Public Barbara Aleli H. Briones PDI-Mar. 8,15,22, 2002

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE S2 CARD WITH NO. 1096793 UNDER THE NAME OF DR. GERALD VILELA WAS LOST. IF FOUND, PLS RETURN TO PHIL. HEART CTR.

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

Thank you very much. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus for favor granted

---

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Tel. No. 435 33 66 or 920 55 21 loc. 3600/Fax No. 928-23-03
28 February 2002

INVITATION TO BID FOR DISPOSAL OF MATERIALS

Gentlemen:

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) is inviting all interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the disposal of various Cast Iron Fittings

Bid documents can be secured at the MWSI-Purchasing Department, MWSS Building, Basement, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

The actual inspection of the items can be made from March 11 to 21, 2002 in coordination with the MWSI-Purchasing Department, at the MWSI-Socea Bona, Novaliches.

Bid shall be submitted in a sealed envelope at the Purchasing Department, on or before March 22, 2002 (Friday); 5:00 PM. Award will be based on the highest bid received.

Finally, MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason/s, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the MWSI.

Very truly yours,
(Sgd.) IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ
AVP. Corporate Logistics

(PDI--Mar 8 & 9, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 4 MANILA

RE: PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF
MINOR CHILD PATRICK EMMARSON
DE GUZMAN

SP. PROC. NO. 02-102834

SONNY JOHN G. PALAC AND
ARLENE S. DE GUZMAN PALAC,
Petitioners.
x-------------------------------x

ORDER

This a verified petition filed by petitioners Sonny John G. Palac and Arlene S. De Guzman Palac, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, the minor Patrick Emmarson De Guzman be declared as their legally adopted child.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let this petition be set for hearing on May 24, 2002 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before this Court located at Rm 364, Third Flr., City Hall, Manila, after this Order shall have been published at the expense of the petitioners in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines for three (3) consecutive weeks after raffle.

All interested persons in this petition may appear at the aforesaid date of hearing and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

The Social Worker of this Court, Ms. Eleonor M. Maguro, is hereby ordered to conduct a home visitation and prepare a social case study reports on the person of the petitioners and herein minor sought to be adopted and to submit the same to this Court on or before the scheduled hearing of this petition.

Let a copy of this Order and the copy of the petition be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General, at 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City and the social worker of this Court, and the same be posted at the Bulletin Board in the premises of this Court, at three conspicuous places, at the expense of the petitioners.

SO ORDERED.
Manila, February 19, 2002.

(Sgd.) SOCORRO B. INTING
Presiding Judge

(PDI--March 8, 15 & 22, 2002)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

P.O. Box 789 Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
email: adjusupbekova@adb.org or dmunoz@adb.org

INVITATION to PREQUALIFY for the OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR ADB'S FACILITIES AND ENGINEERING SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification in the rebidding for the Operations and Maintenance Services for ADB's Facilities and Engineering Systems and Equipment located at ADB Building, No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines. The services include all works necessary to maintain the daily operation of the ADB's mechanical and electrical engineering, drainage and sewerage and fire protection systems (hereinafter referred to as the Facilities) installed and operating at the ADB's premises and the official residence of the ADB President.
2. The services also include the maintenance of workshops equipment. It is required to implement alteration and improvement works including construction of partitioning and related building services realignment which require basic design, drafting and construction personnel. The services should include provision for, on an as need basis, the personnel identified under the Special Projects Personnel on request.
3. Applications for prequalification will only be entertained from companies meeting the following criteria:
   - i. The bidder must have a legal existence for no less than five (5) years as a validly registered company;
   - ii. The bidder must have extensive experience in the field of operations and maintenance services for no less than five (5) and have done similar projects for the last five (5) years in the Philippines;
   - iii. The bidder must have a generated annual revenue derived from operations and maintenance services of at least Philippine Pesos 10,000,000 for the last five (5) years;
   - iv. The bidder must have available credit;
   - v. The bidder must have the technical capability and the availability of Computerized Management Maintenance Software (CMMS), as well as maintenance facilities shops complete with tools and equipment, materials and supplies.
4. The contract shall be for two years and thereafter ADB has the option to renew the contract every year for a maximum of five years.
5. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents from the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services at room 4223 North, No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines, from **11 to 19 March 2002 (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)** The documents are available for a non-refundable fee of Pesos Three Hundred (P300.00).
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of the ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant. The ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification and to reply only to the companies, which are considered by the ADB to be prequalified.

(Sgd.) **NORMIN S. PAKPAHAN**
Chairman
Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI--Mar. 7 & 8, 2002)

Geac
Enterprise Solutions

GEAC Computers Phils., Inc. is now located at Level 15 Tower 1 of **The Enterprise Center**, 6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Tel. Nos. **884-8546-51**, **886-5965**. Fax No. **886-5963**.

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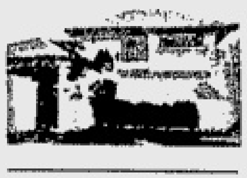

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Republic of the Philippines

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

Industry and Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 897-6682, 890-1332; Fax No. 895-8322

NOTICE

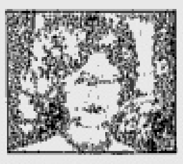
Notice is hereby given that the application of ***G.MKV Industrial Automation, Inc.*** with office address of ***Door 5, Banyan Place, Alwana Business Park, Cagayan de Oro City*** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book 1 of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known E.O. 226, as amended, as ***New Domestic Producer of Robotics and Automated Machineries and Equipment with Pioneer Status at a capacity of twenty-eight (28) units per annum*** under Book 1 of E.O. 226 and with base operations at ***Door 5, Banyan Place, Alwana Business Park, Cagayan de Oro City*** has been officially accepted on ***March 4, 2002*** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the Board of Investments within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) Atty. **CHITA O. ANGELES**
Director
Legal Department

(PDI -- Mar. 8, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



A presumption of death of **JUANA CHUA**, born on 27 January 1942 in Pasig, Rizal (now Pasig City), has been filed in the Diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal of Lucena by her spouse, **CONRADO TAN.**

Anyone who has knowledge of her whereabouts or any information as to what might have happened to her is requested to call or write:

THE JUDICIAL VICAR
P.O. Box 60
Lucena City
Tel. # (042) 660-3483

(PDI--Mar. 8, 9 & 10, 2002)

National Power Corporation
TransCo

RCC-RCMO-2002-02-007
February 22, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONTRACTS:

1)	Sp2002D1Lc316	Construction of Protection Structure for Tower 162 of Bauang-San Esteban 230 KV T/L at Brgy. Sagat, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur
2)	Sp2002D1Lc317	Construction of Perimeter Fence at Bacnotan Substation, Bacnotan, La Union
3)	Sp2002D2Lc318	Construction of Slope Protection for Tower 28 of La Trinidad-Binga 230 KV Transmission Line at La Trinidad, Benguet
4)	Sp2002D3Lc319	Construction of Protection Structure for Tower No. 148 Along Kadampat-San Manuel 500 KV Transmission Line at Brgy Sumabnat, Binalonan, Pangasinan
5)	Sp2002D3Lc320	Construction of Protection Structure for Tower No. 362 Along San Manuel-San Jose 500 KV Transmission Line at Brgy. Binagbag, Angat. Bulacan
6)	Sp2002D3Lc321	Construction of Protection Structure for Tower No. 368 Along San Manuel-San Jose 500 KV Transmission Line at Brgy. San Roque, Angat, Bulacan
7)	Sp2002 D5Lc322	Construction of Protection Structure for Tower No. 154 Along Olongapo-Botolan 230 KV Transmission Line at Botolan, Zambales
8)	Sp2002 D7Lc323	Construction of Slope Protection for Tower No. 52 of Dolores-San Jose 230 KV Transmission Line at Sitio Wawa, San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal
9)	Sp2002D7Lc324	Slope Protection Works for Tower No. 10 of Dolores-San Jose 230 KV Transmission Line at Daang Bakal, Antipolo, Rizal

The Contracts to be performed are:

Sp2002D1Lc316	Excavation Works, Mattress & Gabion Works, Rockfilling Works, Backfilling Works, Compaction
Sp2002D1Lc317	Move-in/Staking/Clearing, Foundation Excavation Fill & Backfill, Masonry Works, Concrete Works, Installation of Barbed Wire
Sp2002D2Lc318	Site Preparation/Clearing/Clear Grub, Structural Excavation, Installation of Grouted Rockwall/Grosted Canal, Grading Fill
Sp2002D3Lc319	Lay-out & Structural Excavation, Laying of Gabions, Boulders & Filter Fabric, Construction of Spur Dike, Structural Backfill
Sp2002D3Lc320	Lay-out/Clearing & Grubbing, Structure Excavation, Laying of Gabions, Boulders & Filter Fabric, Construction of Stone Masonry Canal, Structural Backfill
Sp2002D3Lc321	Lay-out/Clearing & Grubbing, Structure Excavation, Laying of Gabions & Boulders, Construction of Spur Dike, Structural Backfill
Sp2002 D5Lc322	Lay-out and Structural Excavation, Hauling of Armour Rocks, Installation of Armour Rocks, Hauling and Installation of Boulders, Backfilling
Sp2002 D7Lc323	Preparation & Lay-out of Site, Structural Excavation, Hauling of Materials, Installation of Stone Masonry Wall, Installation of Weepholes
Sp2002D7Lc324	Site Preparation/Clearing, Hauling of Materials, Structural Excavation, Construction of Grouted Rockwall/Canal/Toppings, Grading Fill

The Budget for the Contracts to be Bid and contract duration are as follows:

Contract Code	Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Contract Duration
Lc316	One Million Four Hundred Eight-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Three Pesos & 87/100 (P1,482,873.87)	Forty-Two (42) calendar days
Lc317	One Million Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Two Pesos & 02/100 (P1,019,722.02)	Seventy-Eight (78) calendar days
Lc318	One Million Sixty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Two Pesos & 93/100 (P1,066,782.93)	Forty-Two (42) calendar days
Lc319	One Million Eight Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand One Hundred Thirty-One Pesos & 55/100 (P1,876,131.55)	Seventy-Eight (78) calendar days
Lc320	One Million Seven Hundred Four Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Two Pesos & 06/100 (P1,704,332.06)	Eighty (80) calendar days
Lc321	Six Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-One Pesos & 28/100 (P655,231.28)	Fifty-Four (54) calendar days
Lc322	One Million Four Hundred Fifteen Thousand Ninety-Three Pesos & 68/100 (P1,415,093.68)	Fifty-Four (54) calendar days
Lc 323	Three Hundred Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Pesos & 39/100 (P380,650.39)	Forty (40) calendar days
Lc324	One Million Six Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-Four Pesos & 46/100 (P1,677,394.46)	One Hundred Thirteen (113) calendar days

Source of Funds is thru Internal Cash Generation.

Application Particulars for Eligibility is open to Filipino Contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB:

Contract Code	License	Registration
Lc316	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc317	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc318	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc319	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc320	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc321	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc322	At Least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc323	At least "Trade" - General Engineering	At least Small A - Roads & Highways
Lc324	At Least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways

PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as amended dated May 24, 2000 and July 5, 2000 shall be applied to these contracts to be bid.

Only the Licensee can apply for Eligibility and participate in the bidding of the above projects. Except for Corporation or Joint Venture, Special Power of Attorney (Specific or General) shall not be honored.

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements0 shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NPC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the approved Budget for the Contracts to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to Post qualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance from **March 1 to March 22, 2002** at the ***Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), National Power Corporation, Northern Luzon Regional Center, 2nd Basement, Plaza Natalia Building, 51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City, Telefax No. (074) 445-4546*** upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Original PCAB License, submission of a photocopy thereof to the above office and a payment of non-refundable fee of Six Hundred Pesos (P600.00) per copy.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before **April 5, 2002 up to 5:00 P.M. only (official time is RCMO's clock)** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is non-working day or declared a non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

NPC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned **c/o Mr. Jaime G. Mateo, Section Chief, Regional Contracts Management Office** at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **CONRADO B. MARAMAG**
Chairman
Regional Contracts Committee
North Luzon Transco

(PDI -- Mar. 1 & 8, 2002)

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UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
IN THE VISAYAS
Miagao, Iloilo
Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines in the Visayas hereby invites all interested parties to participate in the public bidding of the following:

1. Item 1 – High Speed Internet Connection for the following UPV Campuses
   - 256Kbps – UPV Miagao Campus
   - 64Kbps – UPV Iloilo City Campus
   - 256Kbps – UPV Cebu College
   - 64Kbps – UPV Tacloban College

   The bandwidth should be provisioned and guaranteed from the above point of interconnection to an upstream US-based Internet Service Provider.
2. Item 2 - Supply of the following items:
   - Fluke DSP-4300 Digital Cable Analyzer with Multimode Fiber Test Adapter
   - Cisco 2621 Router with 2-port Serial WAN Interface Card, 2600 IOS IP Software and 10ft. V.35 DTE Male to Smart Serial Cable

All interested parties can participate in either or both of the items 1 or/and 2 and are hereby required to submit the following documents for evaluation not later than March 22,2002 at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration (OVCA), University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV), Miagao, Iloilo:

1. Network Infrastructure including direct connections to the US
2. Data on Local Peering with Local ISPs
3. (Lists of other prequalification documents)

The following schedule of Bidding activities is to be held at the Tearoom, UPV Kitchenette, UPV Iloilo City campus at 2:00 in the afternoon:

- April 11, 2002 – Pre Bid Conference
- April 19, 2002 - Opening of Bids

Bidding documents will be issued to qualified bidders from March 18 to 22, 2002 at the UPV-OVCA. Cost of the bidding documents is Two Thousand Pesos and are considered non-refundable.

UPV reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect or informality contained therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. UPV further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in connection with the said bidding.

(Sgd.) LORENZA B. PADOJINOG
Vice Chancellor for Administration

(PDI--Mar. 8 & 15, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Parañaque

INVITATION TO BID

The City Government of Parañaque is inviting interested parties/accredited suppliers to participate and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

SPORTS SUPPLIES

All sealed bids will be received by the Committee on Awards on or before 10:00 a.m. and then publicly opened at the City Conference Room at exactly 2:00 p.m. on **March 22, 2002.**

Interested parties/accredited suppliers may secure the necessary bid documents and information from the General Services Office.

The City Government of Parañaque reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect contained therein and accept the lowest complying and reasonable bid that is most advantageous to the City Government.

(Sgd.) **JOEY P. MARQUEZ**
City Mayor

(PDI - March 4, 6 & 8, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
National Police Commission
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
PNPCS Canvass and Awards Committee
Camp Crame, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE COMPUTER SERVICE BIDS AND AWARDS, COMMITTEE invites all interested PNP Accredited Suppliers/Manufacturers to participate in the bidding of the following:

1. Supply and Installation of AVLS with Radio Base System (Phase II)
2. One (1) Lot FED Computerization Project - Hardware & Software (Phase III)
3. One (1) Lot TMG Computerization Project - Hardware & Software (Phase III)
4. One (1) Lot CFC Reconciliation Computerization Project

The detailed specification of these products will be released during the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **Wednesday, March 13, 2002** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the Conference Room of the PNP Computer Service in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

For more details, please call up PCI Lampa at Tel. # 725-5108.

(Sgd.) **PSSUPT CLAUDIO C. CABREROS**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Mar. 7, 8 & 9, 2002)

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e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2002

RATE
P230 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

"Whoever serves Me must follow Me;
and where I am, My servant also will be."
John 12:16

The Diocese of Urdaneta
(Urdaneta City, Pangasinan)
The Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan
(Dagupan City)
The Rural Bank of Mangaldan
(Mangaldan, Pangasinan)
His sister **Marie V. Jacinto, Ph.D.**
The **Jacinto, Espino, Villamil** families
announce with sadness the passing
of

Reverend Father Andres Dimas V. Jacinto

Born: March 25, 1938
Ordained Priest - November 28, 1970
Died: March 6, 2002

His remains lie in state at the Jacinto Family Chapel,
25 Nable Street, Dagupan City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, March 12, 2002, 10:00 AM at the Roman Catholic Cemetery after the funeral Mass at St. John Parish Church, Dagupan City.

In Loving Memory
of

CONCEPCION DIAZ ANONAS

On her
First Death Anniversary
June 22, 1897 - March 8, 2001

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Leonida Desiderio Garcia

of Tanauan City, Province of Batangas
Who joined our Lord and Creator
on March 2, 2002.

Sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, gave donations, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and days of prayer and who, in countless and immeasurable ways, condoled with and comforted us in our moment of grief.

MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS ALL OF YOU.

ANTONIO P. CAÑETE, JR.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on March 6, 2002

His loving wife Cely; and sons Ancel, Oyie and Julius; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on March 9, 2002 after the 9:00 AM Mass followed by cremation services at the crematory of the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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899-4425, 897-2535
897-8425 (Telefax)
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MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370
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MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN •

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, Tels 715-1025; 715-1031; 716-1027
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Tels 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels (0785) 522-3451 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G Araneta Avenue, Quezon City Tel 732-0309 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A S Fortuna Street Banilad, Mandaue City Cebu; Tels 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills Lahug Cebu City, Tels 231-0721 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City, Tels (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
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Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
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DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
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Tels. 712-5102 741-5125; 741-5133. Fax No. 711-3084
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219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion Malabon Metro Manila; Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
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Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels 826-1376; 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City, Tel. Nos 843-8838-30. Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila, Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
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WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila, Tels 522-8846, 522-9438; 400-5394

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Luzon**

Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa INQUIRER, *convenient na sulit pa!*

[illegible]

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Visayas**

Diri na ta sa INQUIRER *bay! Sayon na sulit pa!*

Bacolod City
Ms. Elizabeth Verdeflor
Bubbles N' Swirls
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Bacolod City
Telefax No (034) 433-3628
Cell. No. (0917) 685-2691
Cebu
Cebu Daily News
16-15 Escario Street, Cebu City
Tel No (032) 232-7618
Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine &
General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos (035) 225-6796/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7452
Fax No. (035) 255-1182
Iloilo
Mr. Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018
Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 508-2630
Cell. No. (0917) 401-9180

Kalibo
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Candelario Enterprise
RB Newspapers, Magazine &
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Pastrana Street Kalibo, Aklan
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Roxas City
Ms. Marieta Santos
M. Santos Komiks Magazines &
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Door C. MB Building
Fuentes Drive Roxas City
Tel. Nos (036) 621-5596/622-6925
Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
240 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel Nos (053) 325-6743/321-2064
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Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Doña Rosario Village
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Tagbilaran City
Tel. No. (038) 411-5007

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We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Mindanao**

Ake ya tu na INQUIRER. *Sirea ya, sulit pa!*

Butuan City
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R.C. Busa Trading
460 G. Flores Avenue
Butuan City
Tel Nos (085) 225-3247
(085) 225-3169/341-5082
Cagayan de Oro City
OMNI General Merchandise
Dr. 1 De Leon Building
Pabayo-Pacana Streets
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel Nos (08822) 722-830
(088) 856-5253
Grandstar News & Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos (088) 857-2571/857-1012
Telefax No. (088) 231-3249
E-mail grandstar@hotmail.com
Cotabato
Marquez News & Magazine Agency
Marquez Building, 51 Sinsuat Avenue
Cotabato City
Tel. Nos (064) 421-3264/421-6611/
(064) 229-7089 (Lolit - Secretary)
Davao City
Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Santos Building, Gov. Duterte Street
Davao City (fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel Nos (082) 226-4408/221-3379/
221-3424/226-2931

Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel. Nos (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920
General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel Nos (083) 301-8731/301-8244
Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel. Nos (062) 216-1440/214-2641
Cell No (0919) 680-0001
Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marlon's Variety Store
86-88 Sevilla Street, Zamboanga City
Tel Nos (062) 991-4204/991-0073
Mr. Ruben Bautista
c/o Norie Bautista
Christian Vincent Newsstand
P. Briones Street corner Companar Street
Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-2965/990-4016

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Ateneo launches Diploma in Strategic Human Resource Management

HOW CAN organizations remain competitive during troubled times? The Ateneo Human Resources Center believes that an organization's strategic advantage lies in its people.

For this reason, the Ateneo HRC is launching a new Diploma in Strategic Human Resource Management. Composed of six certificate programs, the Diploma in SHRM intends to provide human resource management practitioners with skills that align an organization's HR programs to its strategic directions.

These certificate programs are: Organization Development, Training & Development, Performance and Rewards Management, Leadership and Career Development, HR Planning and Staffing, and Employee Relations and Well-being.

The certificate programs run from five to 10 days and are offered twice a year both at the Ateneo Loyola and Makati campuses. Participants may choose to enroll in either staggered or straight programs.

Ateneo HRC programs are distinguished by two facets: caliber of trainers and teaching methodology.

Edna Franco (former VP for PAL Learning Center and now Executive Director of HRC) asserts, "Being an extension center of the Department of Psychology, our trainers are practitioners grounded in academic theory. We teach not just 'how-to' but also 'why'."

Dr. Gina Hechanova-Alampay (former internal HR consultant at Dow Chemical Co. in the United States and now HRC Training Director) describes the programs as learner-centered, "Our programs are very hands-on and tailored to the needs of participants. Many of them complete our programs with outputs they can readily implement in their organizations."

Aside from the Diploma in SHRM, Ateneo HRC also offers a 3-certificate Diploma in Human Resource Development as well as other programs in Competency Management, Whole-Brain Learning, and Data-gathering techniques for Applied Research.

For more information on Ateneo HRC programs, call admuhrc@admu.edu.ph or 426-6065, 426-5931.

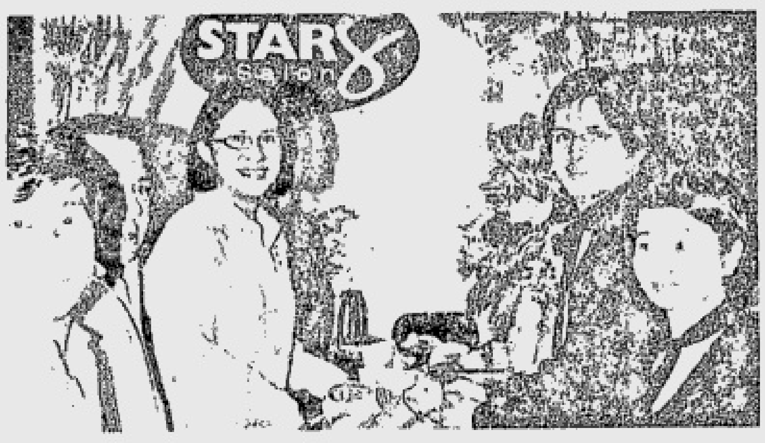
Academic
Achievem
Awar
TOMEN

TOMEN TELECOM SUPPORTS GTAAA

Sharing Globe Telecom's social responsibility program aimed at promoting student excellence, Tomen Telecom Philippines Inc., a subsidiary of Tomen Corp. of Japan, has expressed its support as major sponsor of the seventh Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards (GTAAA). Shown during the agreement signing are (from left) Globe community relations associate Cecilia Odoño, Globe Telecom AVP for public relations Jones Campos, Tomen Philippines executive vice president and general manager Masahide Sekiguchi and Tomen Telecom Philippines senior vice president for operations and treasurer Ricardo Bedayo.

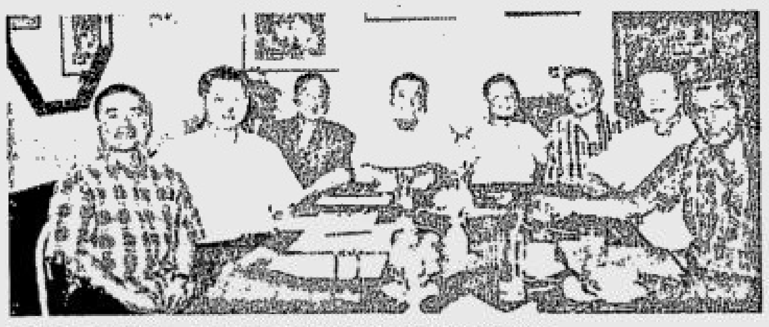
WHEN 'EAGLES GATHER'

The officers, organizing committee and members of the Rotary Club of Pasay District 3810 confer with each other about the preparations needed for the coming Discon 2002 scheduled from March 7 to 9 at the newly renovated Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel. Dubbed as "The Gathering of Eagles", district governor Rudy Estrellado (third from left) issued a call to the clubs to register in full force for the Discon 2002. For inquiries, call Gina at 521-4892.



NEW MAKATI BEAUTY SHOP

Offering a wide range of beauty shop services, Star 8 Salon recently opened at the 8th floor of the Dao I Condominium at 189 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village. Shown cutting the ribbon at its recent inaugural are movie and TV stars Janice de Belen and Rowell Santiago. Also shown are, from left, Jose Y. Sy, Oski Valenzuela, and Arlene Sy.



PULPAPEL ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Pulp and Paper Manufacturers Association Inc. (Pulpapel), the umbrella organization for the local paper mills and the paper industry, held its first business meeting for 2002 and elected the following directors and officers: (from left) Victor Pascual (1st vice president); David Hwang (treasurer); Robert Lim (auditor); George S. Chua (president); Steve Cheng (director); Freddie Chan; Jimmy Sy (director) and Amado Rios (board secretary). Other officers are Miguel del Rosario, Joey Gan, Sonny Ubalde, Carlos Yu, Joseph Server, Rene Domingo and Edgar Tan.

ISANG BATA, ISANG SILYA
TURN-OVER CEREMONY!
A JOINT COMMUNITY SERVICE Project of the ROTARY CLUB OF NEOPOLITAN Fairview and BPI Family BANK
NORTHERN GREATER METRO MANILA AREA FOR THE
CENTER.

ROTARY TURNS OVER 100 CHAIRS

President Erick M. Tarranco and members of the Rotary Club of Neopolitan Fairview recently turned over 100 classroom armchairs to the Bagong Silang Elementary School Special Education Center, Bagong Silang, Camarin, Caloocan City as part of its project 'Isang Silya, Isang Bata'. The project aims to help meet the acute needs for classroom chairs of BSES SPED and the North Fairview High School through a matching grant from the Rotary Foundation and donations from the BPI Family Bank Northern Greater Manila area.

Product FILES

Citibank launches new logo

CITIBANK, one of the world's largest financial institutions, recently celebrated its 100 years in the Philippines and Asia-Pacific with the launch of the bank's new logo. The compass rose has been replaced with a red arc to reflect the broader product range that Citibank now offers to individuals and companies. The new look also reflects the more modern, universal nature of the bank today. Citibank's new logo was developed by Lipincott Design, a US-based brand consultancy firm.

Wishing for Waterman

WATERMAN excels in the art and business of writing instruments, having made modern fountain pens longer than any other manufacturer. Waterman created additional fissures in the feed that allowed air to replace ink as it flowed out, and resulted in a smooth, steady flow of ink—a first for a fountain pen.

Today, Waterman is one of the largest manufacturers of writing instruments in Europe, and supplies 115 countries around the world with much-desired fountain pens, rollerballs, pencils and inks.

The Waterman Edson is a large, cigar-shaped pen, acknowledged as one of the most luxurious pens that money can buy. It was described as being "ahead of its time when other manufacturers were reaching into the past."

And for those who like to experience pure writing pleasure, there is Man 100, the company's centenary offering. Its beautiful finish and technical superiority make Man 100 a true classic. Lady Agathe is crafted like jewelry or a lady's handbag—it comes with its own elegant container with a protective top to prevent leakage—dedicated to the female clients. The Gentleman and Preface ranges are popular with both males and females who are partial to sophisticated, slender designs.

There are more to like in the Waterman selection of writing instruments; you will find a Waterman pen that will perfectly suit your loved one's or your own preferences and lifestyle.

People with style and good sense recognize Waterman as a symbol of success and discriminating taste. The brand's French heritage (Waterman pens are designed in Paris, France) distinguishes it from other "regular" pens.

There is a prodigious number of choices available to us today: cheap roller ball pens, plastic ball points, typewriters, even computer pens that write directly onto the screen. But the Waterman pen will remain a status symbol, a much-wished for writing implement for many generations to come.

MFI accepting applicants for scholarship

MERALCO Foundation Institute is now accepting applicants for scholarship to the three-year industrial technician program (ITP).

There are 150 slots open for ITP and another 30 slots for the two-year IT course on partial scholarship for the coming SY 2002-2003. The scholarship is open to Filipino high school graduates 16 to 22 years old who cannot afford college education.

Technical courses offered include electrical, electronics, instrumentation, tool and die.

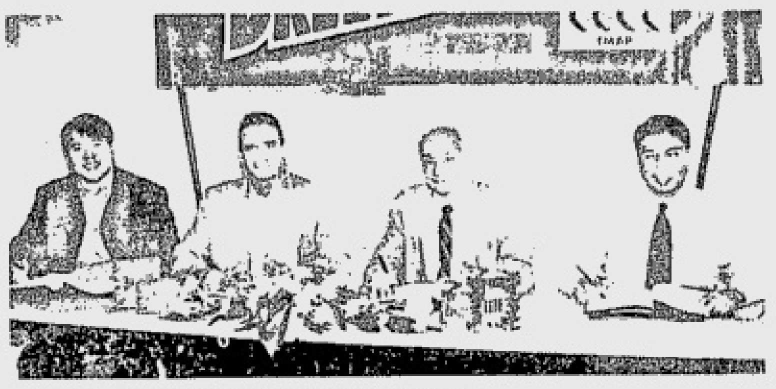
Applicants must bring two 2"x2" ID photos, two recommendation letters affixed with the school's dry seal: one from the high school principal and one from the guidance counselor. For high school graduates, a photocopy of the secondary report card; and for graduating students, a photocopy of the secondary report card filled up to the second grading period.

For those applying for full scholarship in the three-year program, bring a photocopy of the previous income tax return (ITR) of parents or guardians, or a Certificate of Tax Exemption from the BIR.

For more information, visit or call the registrar at the Institute, MFI Building on Ortigas Avenue in Pasig with telephone numbers 632-0756 to 67, locals 431 to 433.

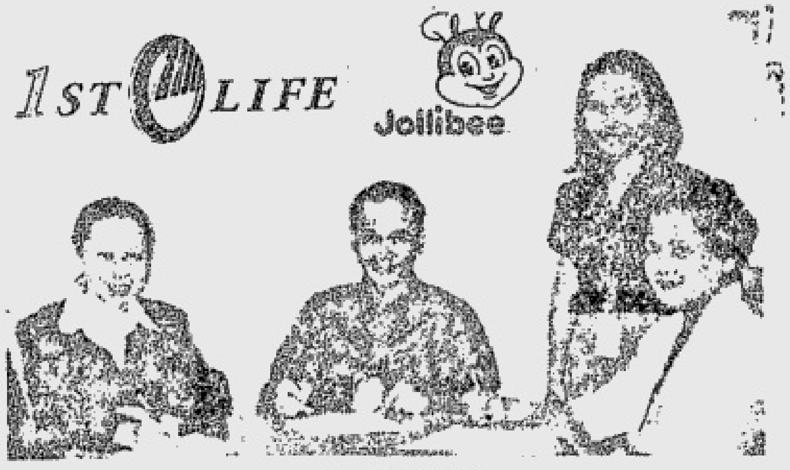
CFS workshops

CFS Continental Technology offers "Time Restructuring At Work" (March 22, 9-12 noon), a half-day workshop designed to help you live your life maximizing time and minimizing stress as you perform at peak levels at the workplace. "Strategic Decision Making At Work" (March 22, 1-5 p.m.), is another half-day discussion of decision-making you need in your career and in your life. Call 869-7960, 823-2358 and 823-4825.



TMAP, BREEZE RENEW TIEUP

The Textile Mills Association of the Philippines (TMAP) and Breeze recently held their contract signing at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel to renew their tieup for 2002. TMAP is the leading organization of textile companies in the country which is involved in promoting the modernization and expansion of the Philippine textile industry. Breeze is the only detergent recommended by the Textile Mills Association of the Philippines because of its ability to completely remove tough stains from clothes without damaging the fabric. Breeze is produced by Unilever Philippines, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary in the country and is the manufacturer of total quality products in various personal care and home care categories. Shown are Tony Lopez, senior brand manager for Breeze, Marcel Kerkmeester, Unilever marketing director for home care, Hermenegildo Zayco, president of TMAP and Nowie Potenciano, assistant brand manager for Breeze.



BEE HAPPY WITH FIRST LIFE

First Guarantee Life Assurance Co. Inc. (First Life) becomes the choice insurance provider for the workforce of Jollibee Foods Corp., the country's leading fast food chain. Under the coverage, First Life will provide financial protection and disability benefits to the almost 400 employees of Jollibee. In recent signing ceremonies was shown (left) First Life's Anna Liza T. Reyrao, manager for group insurance, with Jollibee's Robert Poblete, vice president for human resources, Emily Triunfo, finance services manager, and (standing) Rosemarie Felipe, HR manager.

REALTORS BOARD OFFICERS INDUCTION

The Pasay-Makati Realtors Board Inc. recently inducted its new set of officers and directors for 2002 at the old PSE Building on Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Inducted were Yvette C. Poe, president, Gilbert R. Yupangco, vice president, Wilfred C. Manzon, board secretary, Malaya A. Laraya, assistant board secretary, Lucia O. Sebastian, treasurer, Mercedita S. Reyes, assistant treasurer, Nicolas P. Gonzales, Jr., CPA, internal auditor, and Mila Villena, public relations officer. The directors inducted were D.A. Barredo, Petronilo Carreon, R.M. Fernando, Susan O. Gay, Carmencita J. Gaerlan, and Ben N. Jacinto. Chosen presidential adviser was Domeng de Vera, and board consultants were Manny H. Bocaling, Fel. Coquia, Ma. Lily Tancuan, Lucille Cuasay, and Myrna A. Tort. Legal adviser was lawyer Ariel T. Martinez. The Pasay-Makati Realtors Board Inc. was founded on March 14, 1959. It is one of the leading realtors boards in Metro Manila, with a broad membership base under the umbrella of the Philippine Association of Realtors Board Inc. (Pareb).

RJ 100 FOR THE NEXT STEP

Rajah Broadcasting Network Inc. (RJ 100) recently signed a contract of agreement with The Next Step Events Planner as official radio station for Eskwela Expo 2002, the 1st School Supplies, Accessories and Apparel Expo to be held at SM Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City from May 17-19. RJ 100 will also become the official radio station for Gifts and Premiums, Business Gifts, Promotional Ideas, Stationery, Toys and Premiums Expo to be held from June 5 to 7 at the Grand Ballroom of the Dusit Hotel, Makati City. Signing the contract, at left, is Bea Jacinto, executive vice president of RJ 100, and Annaliza Bacani Laxamana, managing director of The Next Step Events Planner.

makro

makro

6th ANNIVERSARY

MORE Treats!

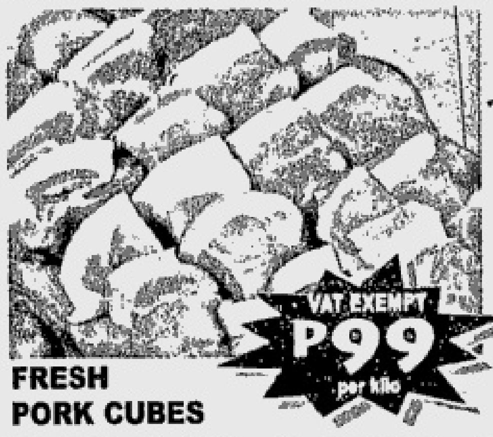
OFFERS AVAILABLE UNTIL MARCH 12, 2002 ONLY

GUARANTEED MORE *REAL FRESH PORK, BEEF, FISH & CHICKEN*

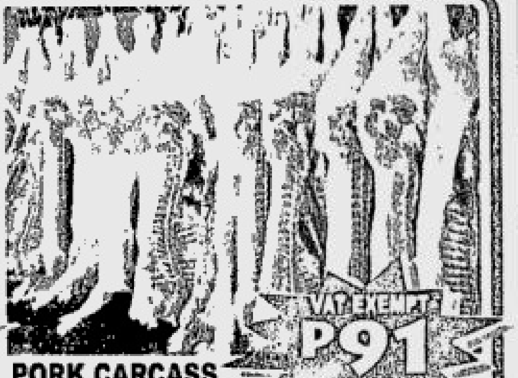
VAT EXEMPT
P105
VAT EXEMPT
P102
VAT EXEMPT
P94

Manila stores incl. Imus. Batangas store only. Pampanga store only.

PORK LIEMPO
Skin-On, Bone-In

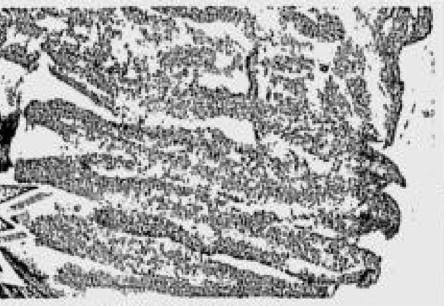


FRESH PORK CUBES
VAT EXEMPT P99 per kilo

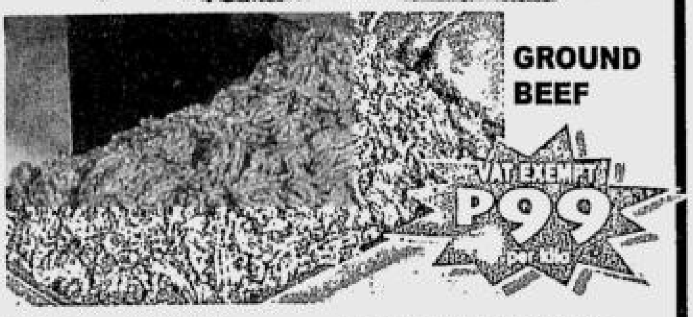


PORK CARCASS
Headless, Trimmed
VAT EXEMPT P91 per kilo

	VAT EXEMPT	VAT EXEMPT
PORK CHOP Skin-On, Bone-In	P99 per kilo Manila stores Incl. Imus & Batangas	P92 per kilo Pampanga store only.
PORK PIGUE Skin-On, Boneless	P99 per kilo Manila stores Incl. Imus & Batangas	P97 per kilo Pampanga store only.
PORK KASIM Skin-On, Boneless	P99 per kilo Manila stores Incl. Imus & Batangas	P97 per kilo Pampanga store only.
PORK TAIL	P79 per kilo Manila stores Incl. Imus & Batangas	P77 per kilo Pampanga store only.
PORK SPARERIBS	P79 per kilo Manila stores Incl. Imus & Batangas	P77 per kilo Pampanga store only.
PORK PANSIGANG	P72 per kilo Manila stores Incl. Imus & Batangas	P70 per kilo Pampanga store only.



PUNTA Y PECHO
VAT EXEMPT P115 per kilo



GROUND BEEF
VAT EXEMPT P99 per kilo

	VAT EXEMPT
LOMO SA HITA	P145 per kilo
CAMTO	P120 per kilo
TADYANG	P99 per kilo
PRIME RIB	P145 per kilo
BEEF CARCASS	P120 per kilo
HIND QUARTER	P129 per kilo
TAPADERA	P145 per kilo
LARGA	P135 per kilo
BEEF LAMAN	P119 per kilo
BULALO	P95 per kilo
CORTA	P131 per kilo
FOREHIND QUARTER	P109 per kilo

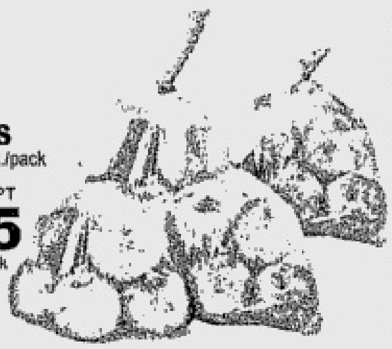
TILAPIA SMALL
VAT EXEMPT P39 per kilo

LIVE HITO
VAT EXEMPT P50 per kilo

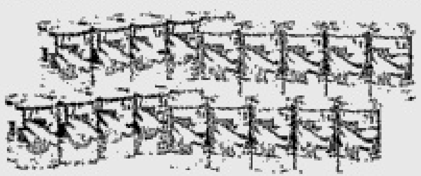
PUREFOODS FROZEN CHICKEN
VAT EXEMPT P49 per kilo

SUNRICE
DENORADO
FRAGRANCE RICE

SUNRICE
Denorado Rice
25 Kgs.
VAT EXEMPT P488
P19.52 per kilo
Manila stores incl. Imus & Batangas
VAT EXEMPT P485
P19.40 per kilo
Pampanga store only



FUJI APPLES
32-36, 6 pcs./pack
VAT EXEMPT
P55
per pack

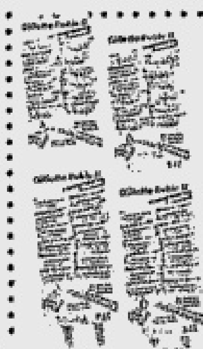


FAMILY Sardines
Tomato Sauce / Chili
155 G x 10
VAT INCLUSIVE
P72
per pack
P7.20 per can

MILO Choco Drink
Refill Pack
200 G x 5
VAT INCLUSIVE
P125
per pack
P25 per 200G

JACK & JILL Potato Chips
BBQ, 25 G x 10
V-Cut
BBQ Buddy Size
35 G x 10
VAT INCLUSIVE
P91
per pack
P9.10 per piece

DOWNY Fabric Conditioner
C. Cologne/Sunrise/Fresh
22 mL. x 48
VAT INCLUSIVE
P159
Manila stores incl. Imus.
VAT INCLUSIVE
P157
Batangas & Pampanga only



GILLETTE Rubie II Disposable Long Handle Shaver
24's VAT INCLUSIVE
P329
P13.71 per piece
Manila stores Incl. Imus.
VAT INCLUSIVE
P321
P13.38 per piece
Batangas & Pampanga only.

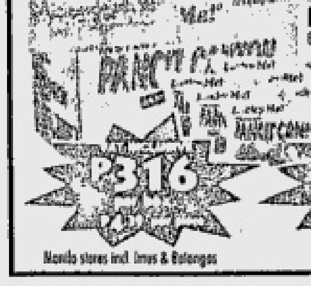
CHEAPER BY THE CASE

4% SAVINGS

ARO French Fries
Shoestrings
4.5 lbs
VAT INCLUSIVE P675
P117 per 4.5 lb.

2% SAVINGS
VAT INCLUSIVE P1,199

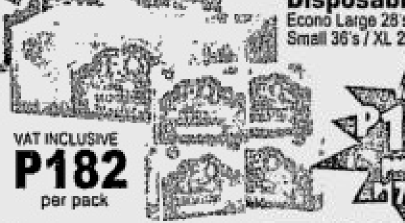
PUREFOODS Corned Beef
150 G.
VAT INCLUSIVE
P153
per pack, 6's
P25.50 per can



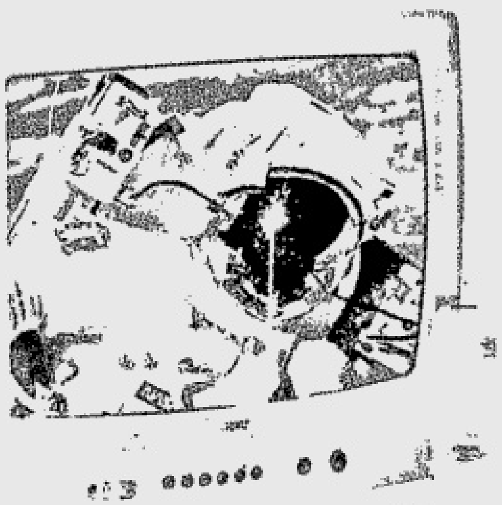
FREE

LUCKY ME Pancit Canton
65 G x 72
VAT INCLUSIVE P316
Manila stores incl. Imus & Batangas
VAT INCLUSIVE P315
Pampanga store only.

3.4% SAVINGS

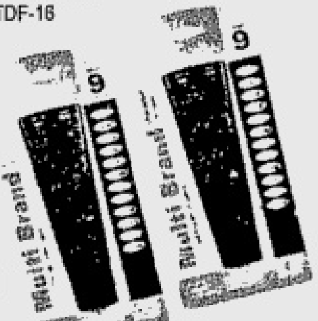


EQ Disposable Diapers
Econo Large 28's/ Medium 32's/ Small 36's / XL 24's x 6
VAT INCLUSIVE
P182
per pack
VAT INCLUSIVE P1,055



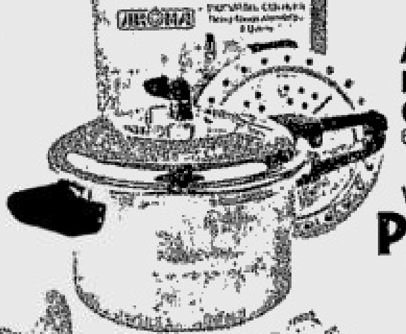
KOLIN Color TV 20"
High Resolution Picture Tube
Front & Rear AV Input Terminal
Full Remote Control On-Screen Display
Autovolt 110-220 Volts
KC-20MKPII
VAT INCLUSIVE P5,950

TAJIMA Desk Fan 16"
Plastic Blade
TDF-16
VAT INCLUSIVE **P499**



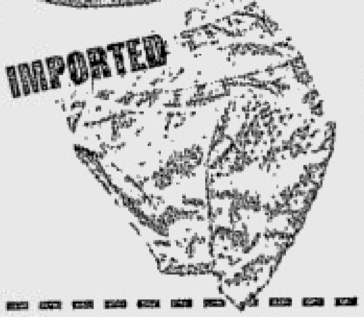
SAMWON Universal Remote Control
RM-6VX
VAT INCLUSIVE
P289

MOTHER'S Rice Cooker
with Steamer
12 cups Capacity
A-701
VAT INCLUSIVE **P499**



AROMA Pressure Cooker
6 Quart
VAT INCLUSIVE
P599

US Heavy Weight Bath Towel
27" x 50"
VAT INCLUSIVE **P259**



Ladies' Panties
6's
VAT INCLUSIVE
P95

MAGIC 6 • MAGIC 6 • MAGIC 6 • MAGIC 6 • MAGIC 6 • MAGIC 6

Magic 6

MAGIC 1

NB Entertainment Center
with CD Rack & Side Shelf
W100"xL40"x H105"
VAT INCLUSIVE
P1,999

MAGIC 2

UNION Industrial Ground Fan 18"
Oscillating, Metal Blade
220 Volts, 60 Hz
VAT INCLUSIVE
P859

MAGIC 3

GE Cordless Phone
10 Channels
Assorted Colors
29750
VAT INCLUSIVE
P1,349

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6 PARTICIPATING ARTICLES IN THIS PROMO
AND AVAIL OF THIS UNIVERSAL VCD PLAYER
130G/3000 FOR ONLY P1,495 (VAT INCLUSIVE)

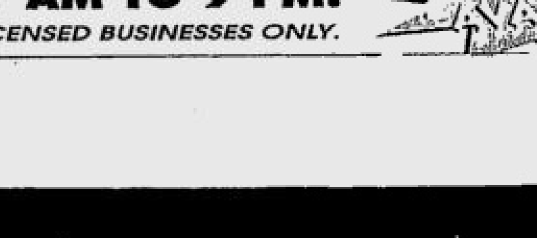
MAGIC 4

NB Foldable Treadmill
VAT INCLUSIVE
P4,595

MAGIC 5

NB Playpen
36" x 36"
VAT INCLUSIVE
P1,375

MAGIC 6



SLEEPWORTH Kapok Mattress
36" x 75" x 3"
VAT INCLUSIVE
P879

MAGIC 6 • MAGIC 6 • MAGIC 6 • MAGIC 6 • MAGIC 6 • MAGIC 6

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BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Who will get the ₱500-M San Miguel account?

By Greg Garcia
Contributor

Editor's Note: Five of the country's top advertising agencies are bidding for the San Miguel account and whoever gets it will earn an additional P75 million in their coffers. Ad agencies usually get 15 percent of the value of the ads they place.

If McCann Erickson fails to retain the account, its ranking as No.1 ad agency in terms of billing will go down.

The creative people have been working non-stop and racking their brains to come up with the best ad. But after winning the bid, the harder job is to increase the dwindling sales of beer.

NOTHING excites advertising people more than a new business pitch. "The boring part is when you get the business" so goes the inside joke.

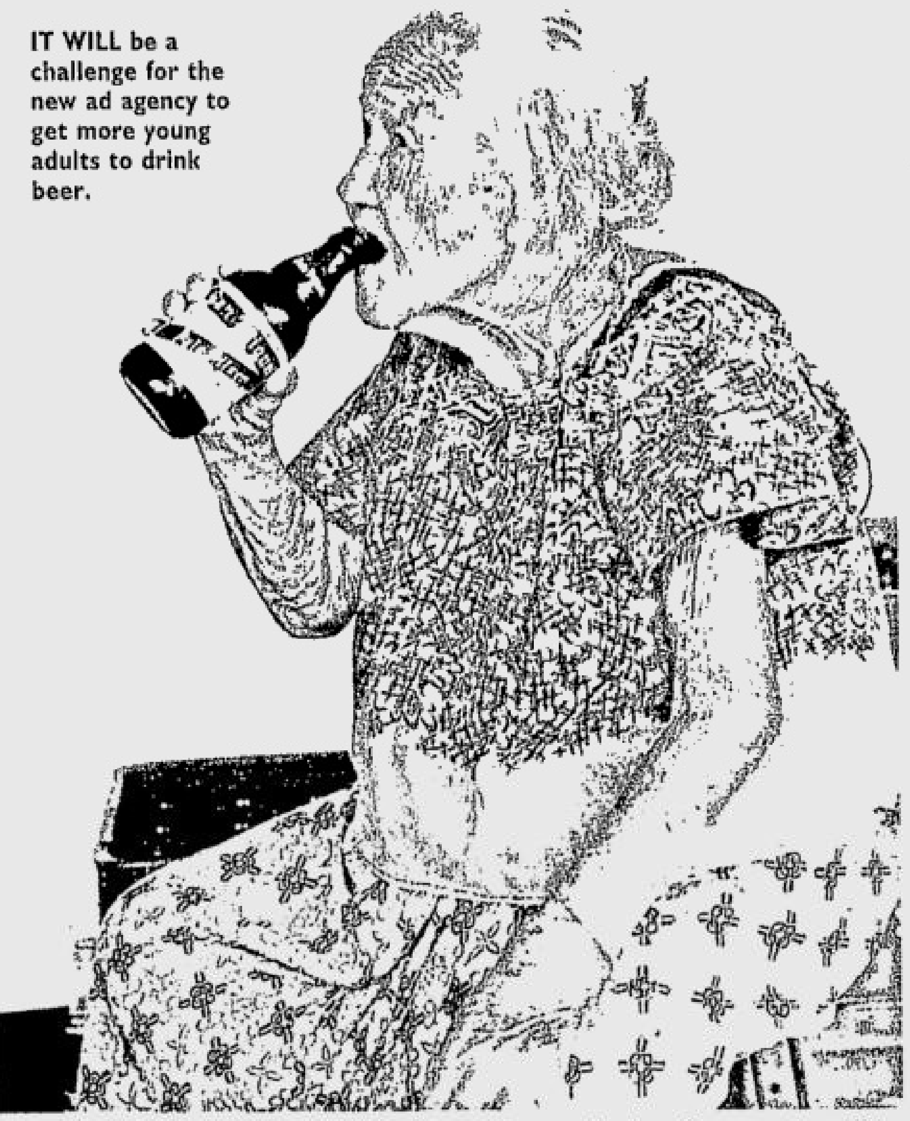
The past couple of weeks have been anything but boring for five advertising agencies that are slugging it out for the biggest advertising pitch of the year.

At stake: The San Miguel beer account with a budget rumored to be around P500 million, perhaps even more with Kirin in the picture.

While there are probably other local accounts with a heftier budget than San Miguel's, no other local account beats the prestige and bragging rights that go with the San Miguel account.

"This opportunity comes only once every two decades," one of the agency heads pitching for the business told his people.

The incumbent agency is McCann Erickson, the country's biggest advertising agency, which has been handling the account since 1986. Challenging them are the other finalists in San Miguel's search for a possible new advertising partner: Jimenez and Partners, Saatchi and Saatchi, Lowe and Partners (Lintas) and FCB.



IT WILL be a challenge for the new ad agency to get more young adults to drink beer.

JOSE V GALVEZ JR.

Next week, these five agencies will individually take center stage and put on their best show to dazzle the key San Miguel executives with their strategic thinking and creative work.

Yesterday and today

Before McCann Erickson, Philippine Advertising Counselors (PAC) handled the account, during an era when the Sorianos were San Miguel and vice versa.

At that time, the relationship between PAC and San Miguel seemed almost forever.

Luis Morales, now head of his own agency Image Dimensions, was on the account and recalls: "From a campaign theme of It's A Small World With San Miguel, we switched to a Filipino-themed campaign: "O Anong Sarap, So Good Ayos Na Ang Kasunod!"

From there, PAC and San Miguel came up with memorable campaigns that became part of the everyday language.

Who can forget "Isa Pa Nga!," "Eto ang Beer" when competition came out and "Mag-Beer Muna Tayo" which brought San Miguel to its icon status as a brand?

And who can forget the images of Flash Elorde, Bert Marcelo and other local celebrities that went with those campaigns?

Uh, San Miguel apparently did.

Because in 1986 alas, San Miguel moved the account to McCann where the campaign "Iba Ang May Pinagsamahan" and the hard to understand Fernando Poe Jr. series of TV commercials were born.

In 1993, San Miguel developed a seven-year itch and started looking at other agencies.

They were enamored by Basic Advertising, affiliated then with FCB, the hot agency of that dynamic duo Antonio Mercado and Minyong Ordonez.

A "hand to hand combat" ensued between McCann and Basic-FCB.

McCann won

They kept the business on the theme "Kahit Kailan Kaibigan" conceptualized by the team headed by Dennis Garcia of the Hotdog band fame.

McCann then went on to evolve the campaign, the most recent one being, "SMB," where various meanings were given to the initials "SMB."

Last Christmas, a new campaign "Nandito ang Sarap" came and went practically unnoticed.

But what the San Miguel big bosses did notice were, reportedly, several key marketing issues which the McCann advertising, in their judgment, has not been able to address.

These include value proposition (perceived by consumers to be expensive), cannibalization of the pale pilsen brand by new beer variants, poor image (your father's beer) and declining drinkers from the young adult population.

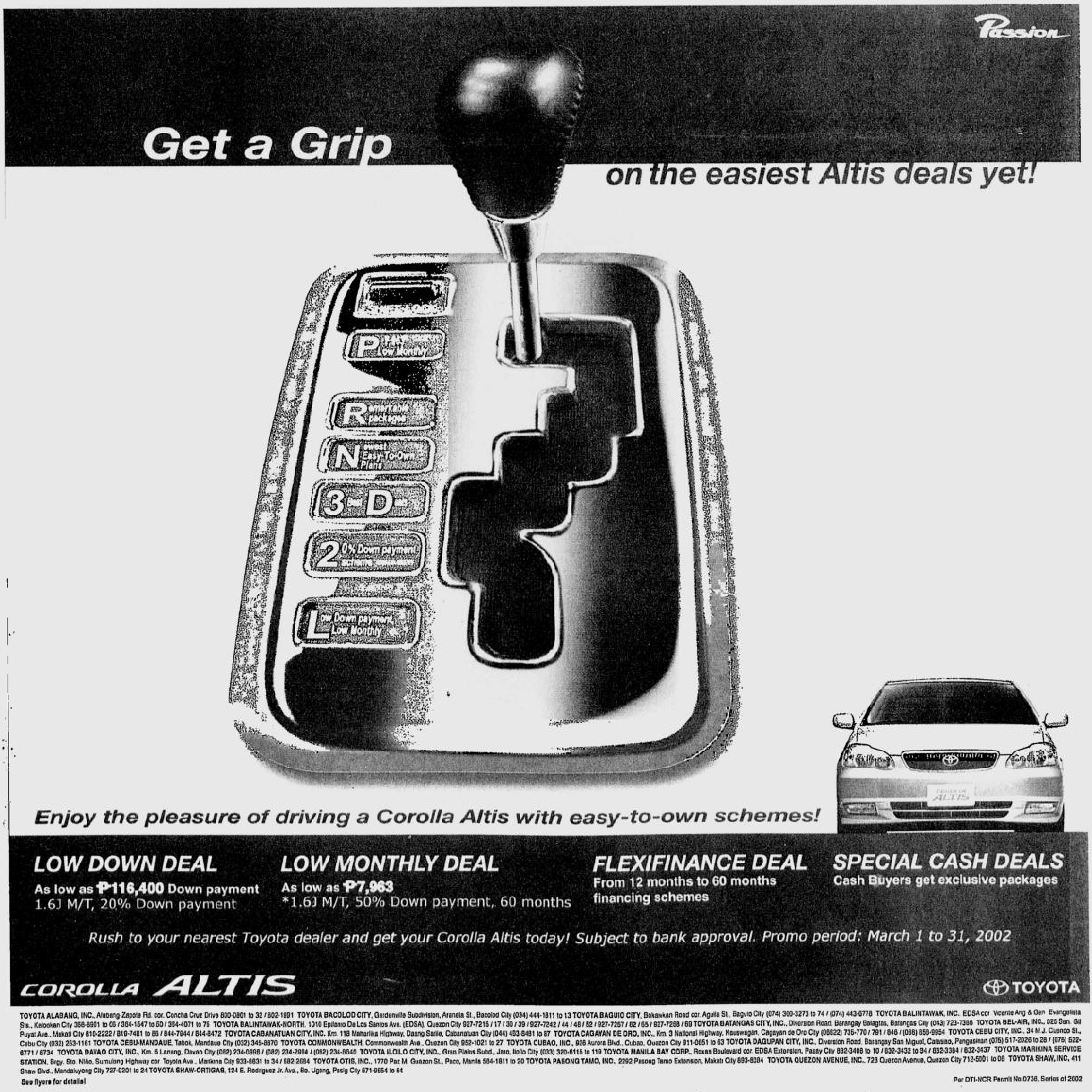
I guess that was enough reason for the San Miguel bosses to make the painful decision—"Let's put the account to a pitch."

What San Miguel is looking for

According to information gathered, San Miguel wants the agencies to address these issues:

- **The need to refresh the San Miguel Beer brand.** This means devising ways to get people to take a fresh look at the brand and to be more rel-

WHO/ C2



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See flyers for details!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0736, Series of 2002

Realty tax bites

By Debbie Jean I. Centeno
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

MOST real property owners are aware of their obligation to pay real realty taxes to their respective city or municipal treasurers. Some, however, still fail to pay their real property taxes.

Their reasons vary but one thing they should take note is that there are serious legal and financial consequences to non-payment of realty taxes, including heavy interest payments. The local government unit may even sell the unit off to pay for the delinquent taxes.

Section 246 of the Local Government Code of 1991 (LGC) provides that "real property tax for any year shall accrue on the first day of January and from that date it shall constitute a lien on the property which shall be superior to any other lien, mortgage or encumbrance of any kind, whatsoever, and shall be extinguished only upon payment of the delinquent tax.

"As the realty tax accrues on the first day of January, this means that realty taxes can already be collected from the owners on the first day of January of every year."

While it is true that realty taxes accrue on the first day of January, our lawmakers realized the different financial circumstances of real property owners. It is for this reason that they included a provision in the LGC that allows the installment payment of realty taxes, without any interest or penalty.

Section 250 of the LGC provides that the realty tax may be paid in installments according to the following schedule: first installment should be paid on or before March 31, the second on or before June 30, the third on Sept. 30 and the fourth on or before Dec. 31.

The owner should know the importance of the date of the accrual of the realty tax.

As explained in a Court of Tax Appeals decision (Institucion Teresiana vs. Board of Assessment Appeals, CTA Case No. 1110), the accrual date is important in determining the tax lien and the tax exemption.

The local government units have appointed the city or municipal treasurers to post the notice of the due dates for payment of realty taxes to inform the real estate owners of their obligations. The due dates for payment should also be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality or city.

The government feels that with adequate notice of posting and publication, there is no reason why owners would not be able to pay their taxes on time.

It would be too much for the real property owners to expect or demand personal notices and it would be more costly and inconvenient for the local government unit. The posting and publication should be enough to notify real property owners of their obligation to pay realty taxes.

It is also worth mentioning that the real property owners can avail themselves of a discount of as much as 20 percent if they pay their taxes a year in advance. Moreover, if installment payments are made before their due dates, the owner may be given a 10 percent prompt payment discount.

The owner who fails to pay the realty tax due on his real property will be charged a 2-percent interest per month on the unpaid amount or a fraction thereof, until the delinquent taxes are fully paid pursuant to Section 255 of the LGC.

The total interest that can be collected from the owner shall not exceed 36 months. To illustrate, if the owner fails to pay his realty tax for more than five years, the period beyond three years can no longer be subject to the 2-percent interest per month, since the maximum allowable interest on delinquent realty taxes is 36 months.

In short, the penalty for being delinquent in the payment of realty taxes is 2 percent per month up to 36 months.

The Supreme Court held that the 2-percent interest should be computed only on the delinquent tax, that is, on the installment due and not paid. For example, Pedro, a realty owner, is allowed to pay his realty tax in four equal installments due and payable on four specified dates.

In 1995, Pedro faithfully paid the first three installments on March 31, June 30 and Sept. 30. However, for some reasons, Pedro failed to pay the fourth and last installment which was due and payable on or before Dec. 31, 1995.

How should the 2-percent interest be computed? The 2-percent interest on the fourth and last installment should be computed beginning Jan. 1, 1996 and not on the original realty tax due for the entire year (1995).

Despite the penalty attached for non-payment of realty tax, some real property owners ignore their obligation to pay their real property tax.

The LGC provided the local government unit, say the city or municipality, with adequate powers to pursue real property owners who refuse to pay their realty taxes. The LGU, for instance, can levy upon other real properties of the delinquent taxpayer.

Real property owners should be encouraged to pay real property taxes, not only because of the legal and financial consequences but also because these taxes would go a long way in helping the province, city or municipality generate revenues or funds necessary to finance the needs of the community.

(For comments and suggestions, please send an e-mail to sgv mail@Andersen WO.)

DHL Worldwide provides support for Ericcson

DHL Worldwide Express, the pioneer and global leader in the air express service industry, has been appointed by Ericsson, one of the world's leading supplier in telecommunications to provide them with an ongoing logistics support.

DHL explained that such collaboration would further facilitate Ericsson to centralize its operations in the Asia-Pacific region. Previously, this was divided into two areas—Malaysia housed the Ericsson Service Chain Operations Center, while Singapore was the base for the Regional Logistics Center.

"DHL's advanced logistics capabilities and services will enable Ericsson to run the whole operation from its new Asia Pacific Hardware Service Center in Shah Alam, Malaysia," explained DHL Malaysia General Manager Yasmin Aladad Khan. "As a result, Ericsson's customers throughout the region are now enjoying the best time—critical return, repair and repatriation for their telecommunication devices."

She also said that businesses all over the world are looking at ways to cut costs due to uncertainties in the global economy. One of the ways to do this is to outsource expertise and manpower to make their businesses more cost-efficient and streamlined.

"The Ericsson Regional Logistics Center is one out of many DHL projects geared to provide its customers with a highly focused business solution," she said. "This particular solution integrates the best logistic practices with a well-developed air-express network linking 228 countries with 254 aircraft, 16,000 vehicles and employing 69,000 trained and dedicated staff."

Who will get . . .

From page C1

evant to the younger sector of the population.

Beer marketers will not admit this, but their target market traditionally ranges from 15 to 65 years old. This is a huge market of about 46 million people.

- **Reverse declining volumes.** Actually, it's not just San Miguel that has a problem. Lucio Tan's boys have their own problems to fix over at Asia Brewery.

SAN MIGUEL, one of the most prestigious advertising accounts.

San Miguel is looking for marketing and advertising ideas to increase drinker base, strengthen loyalty and improve drinking frequency.

As a matter of interest, beer's three coreselling seasons are summer, Oktoberfest (you've got to credit the San Miguel boys for making this German tradition a huge success here) and Christmas.

Megabranding?

Directionally, the talk is that the agencies have been tasked to look into today's favorite marketing solutions to a brand's problems: megabranding.

The shampoo, detergent, cigarette and soft drinks categories have had some success on the concept of megabranding.

A megabrand creates an identity that works across product classes. It can also be conceived as a spanning symbol that assists customers in seeing relationships between products—relationships that might ordinarily be missed.

San Miguel will be looking at the competing agencies, thinking on how to make the variants (Pale Pilsen, Light, Dry, for example) flow the megabrand framework.

Sources from San Miguel say they briefed the competing agencies to put together a proposed 3-year program.

This must be long term and sustainable with a detailed communication plan for the first year and within this plan, the thinking for the Pale Pilsen must be comprehensive.

The grade card, according to our information, will be 50 percent for creative ideas, 30 percent for strategic thinking, and 20 percent for media recommendations.

Who's who?

The competing agencies are all part of international agency networks.

Interestingly three of them, McCann Erickson, Lowe and Partners, and FCB all belong to the Interpublic Group.

All will, undoubtedly, dig into the resources of their network.

But in the end, it will be the local insights that will make the difference.

McCann Erickson, headed by Emily Abrera; and Mon and Abby Jimenez of Jimenez and Partners are creative giants associated with some of the industry's marketing success stories.

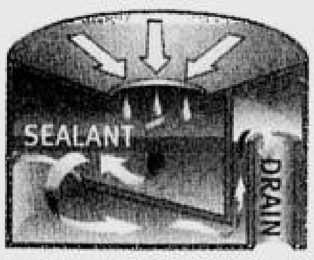
Cid Reyes and Merle Jayme of Saatchi and Saatchi and Raul Castro of Lowe and Partners are creative forces that any client would love to have working on their businesses.

FCB appears a bit handicapped by the recent resignation of their chief creative officer, Dennis Garcia, but they imported their regional creative director to lead their pitch team.

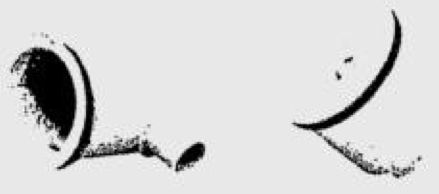
Who will win?

Tough call.

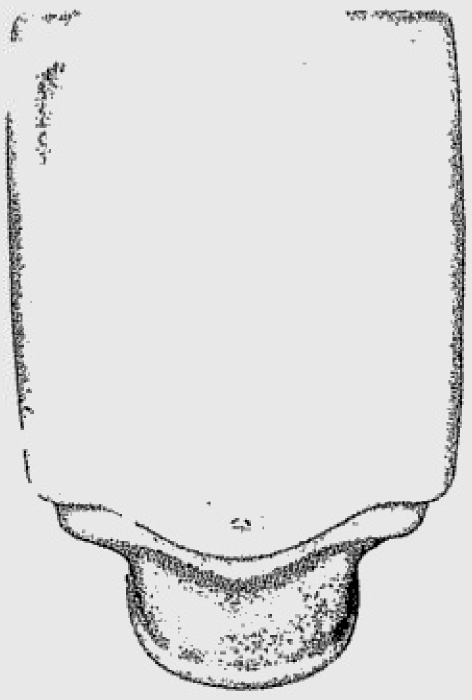
But whoever will win, you can bet the celebration will include San Miguel beer, and everybody will be shouting aloud for the losers to hear, *'O! Anong Sarap!'*



INSTEAD of water, the urinal uses sealant liquid designed to filter uric sediment.



RECYCLABLE cartridge



Waterless urinal, anyone?

By Amelita R. Remo

MARKETING STRATEGY

THE THREAT of a water crisis prompts many to conserve water. But would you consider using a "waterless toilet" as one way to do it?

Falcon Waterfree Technologies, together with American Standard and Johnson Wax Professional, introduces the Washbrook Waterless Urinal, a urinal that aims to conserve water by eliminating the need to flush.

Created in 1995, the waterless urinal is suitable for public bathrooms such as those in schools, malls, airports and commercial buildings, or the industrial and institutional markets, which Falcon aims to tap in the country

Using direct liaisons, Falcon, American Standard and Johnson Wax Professional plan to directly approach this market as well as its existing customers. American Standard, the exclusive distributor of the waterless urinal units, is introducing this technology to its clients who are mainly architects and contractors whereas Johnson Wax Professional, makers of the recyclable cartridges, can sell it to owners of hotels, commercial buildings, schools and shopping malls.

To introduce the product, a one-month free trial of the waterless urinals is given in order to test and prove the advantages of using a waterless urinal over a standard flush urinal.

An example of this is the Petron (Pandacan oil depot), a client of American Standard, which is currently testing the waterless urinal.

Ditmar L. Gorges, inventor of the waterless urinal, believes that this free trial period is necessary since creating awareness regarding the benefits of the product is the key to the acceptance of a new technology.

Though the idea of not using water in urinals may not seem sanitary at first, Gorges disproves this by enumerating the benefits.

According to Gorges, not only can this environment-friendly technology save up to 40,000 gallons of water per urinal a year (equivalent to what a standard flush urinal uses per year), but it can also largely reduce the urinal unit-related costs such as purchase, installation, water and sewer and maintenance.

Each unit of the waterless urinal costs around P8,000 to P10,000 and does not need a flush valve nor a special water supply pipe work. The waterless urinal can make use of the same pipe work as the ordinary urinals and can be installed in 30 to 45 minutes.

Instead of water, the urinal makes use of a biodegradable chemical called sealant liquid which is specifically designed to filter uric sediment that allows the remaining urine to flow into the drainage pipes.

Also, the sealant forms a barrier within the cartridge, which eliminates any unpleasant odor. This sealant liquid is contained within a cartridge, which needs to be replaced four times a year or approximately 7,000 uses. Replacement of the cartridge is simple and takes less than 10 minutes to do so. Each cartridge costs about P1,300.

This therefore means minimal water expenses and thus reduced sewer, operational and maintenance costs.

Falcon, American Standard and Johnson Wax Professional held an exhibit on Feb. 28 to March 2 in Edsa Shangri-La Hotel to officially launch the product to the market and are soon setting up product orientations for architects, companies, hotels and building owners.

Plans of giving introductory price offers for those who would avail of the waterless urinals are also being finalized.

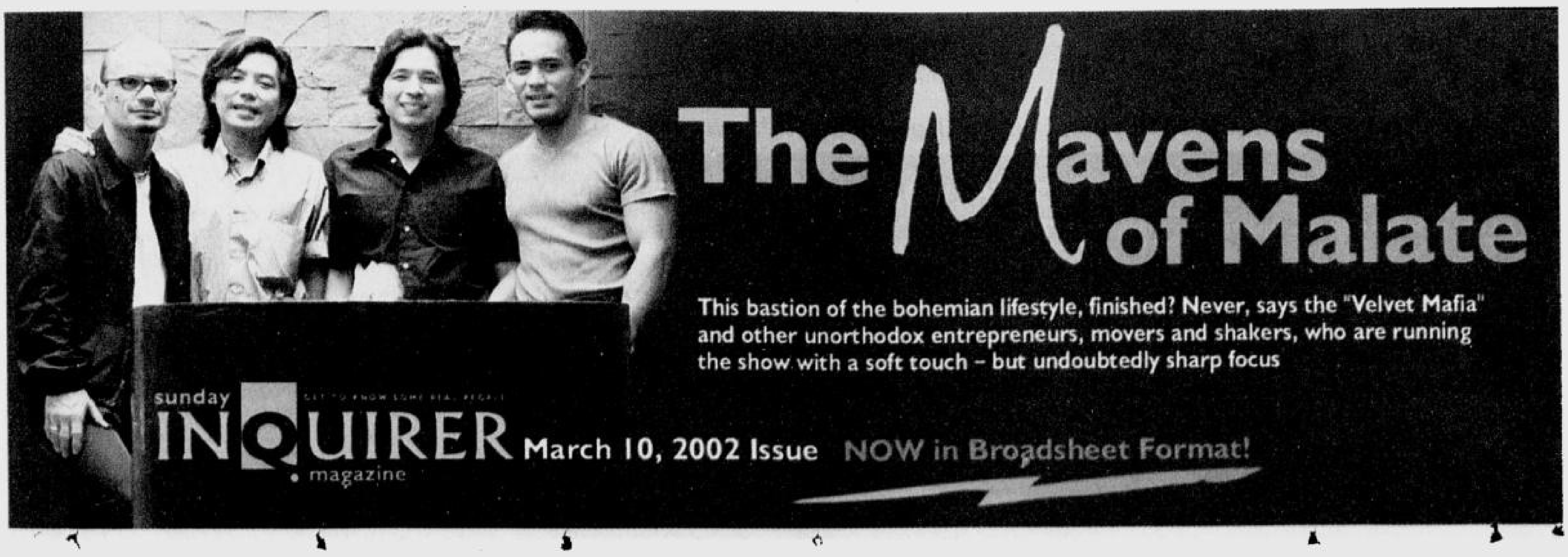
There are also proposals of tie-ups with government agencies and local government units such as Marikina, regarding its contribution to the environment and the move for water conservation.

To date, 20 countries have been using the waterless urinals, seven of which are in Asia namely Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, China, Korea, Japan and the Philippines. The success of this particular technology can be measured through the good feedback and reception it had been receiving in other countries.

In some countries such as Germany, the government had even mandated that waterless urinals should be used in public buildings. Thailand, on the other hand, had seen significantly lesser sewer problems when it had started to use waterless urinals.

Falcon's clients also include Oakland International Airport and the US Navy, Dusseldorf University in Germany, the Wellington Stadium in New Zealand and the 2000 Olympic facilities in Australia.

"What the waterless urinal offers is the 'real world solution' to real problems, not only addressing water shortage and the environment concerns but one's financial considerations as well," says Gorges.


The Mavens of Malate
This bastion of the bohemian lifestyle, finished? Never, says the "Velvet Mafia" and other unorthodox entrepreneurs, movers and shakers, who are running the show with a soft touch – but undoubtedly sharp focus
sunday INQUIRER magazine
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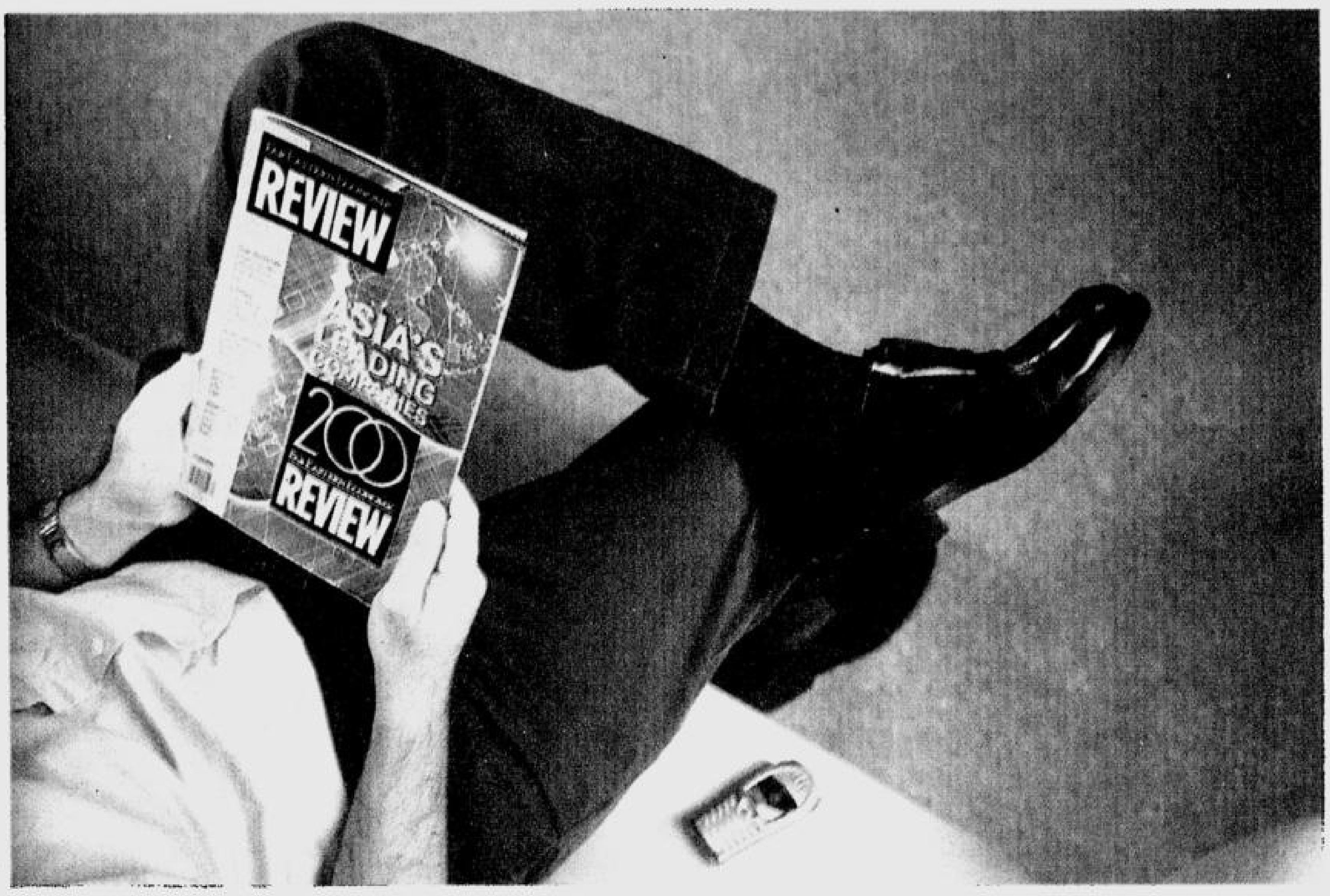

Congratulations

on leading the country's pack

Globe tops

Far Eastern Economic Review names Globe Telecom as top telecommunications company in the Philippines.

of telecommunication companies

in innovation in responding

to customers' needs

in the Far Eastern Economic Review's

annual survey. And ranking 6th

in the overall Top Ten companies

in the Philippines. Your recognition

further inspires our shared

commitment to provide only

the best mobile solutions.

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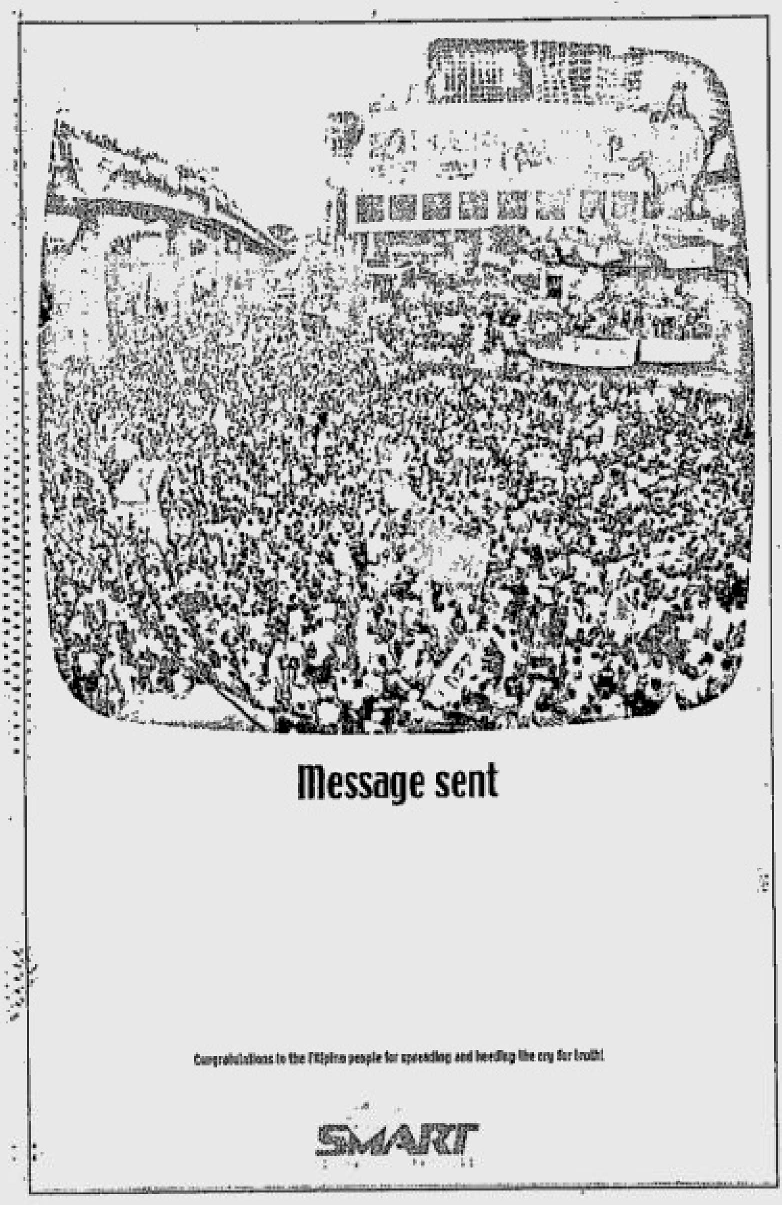
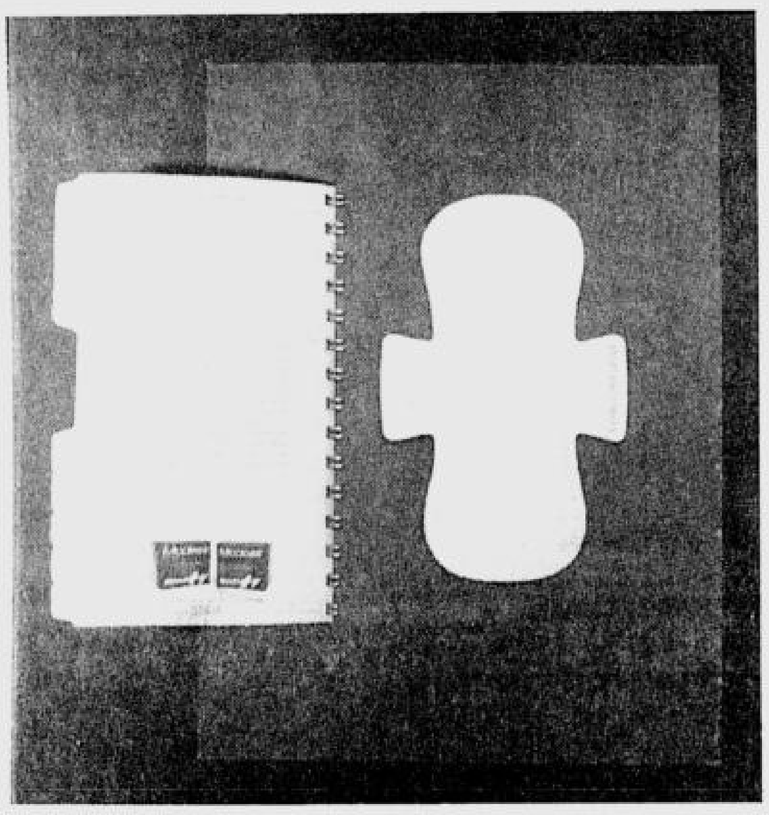
ERICSSON

Critics to choose best ads of the year


Message sent
Congratulations to the Filipino people for spreading and heeding the cry for truth!
SMART



By Roger Pe
Contributor

MAKE way for the advertising industry's most-awaited event of the year—the Creative Guild Ad of the Year Awards.

Unlike the Philippine Ad Congress, the Creative Guild chooses only one winner each for print, radio and television categories during its bi-monthly judgings. These Ad of the Month winners in turn, compete with each other for the Ad of the Year plum at year's end.

Billed as the Best of the Best, it is the most coveted of all ad industry awards and can bring the winner to an enviable exclusive circle of winners—the Guild's Hall of Fame.

Along with this honor, comes a passport to the Cannes International Advertising Awards—the Olympics of advertising and Clio's arch rival for the world's most prestigious ad competition title. With standards and entry fees going higher and higher each year $550 per ad entry, the Cannes incentive seems only fitting for the Philippine Ad of the Year winners.

The Creative Guild is an association of creative directors from all 4A's (Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines) member-agencies. Initially formed by Greg Garcia of Hemisphere-Leo Burnett as a club for copywriters and art directors in the early '80s, it has become an award-giving institution, unwaveringly setting the standards of excellence for Philippine advertising creativity to this day.

Formalized in 1984, Yoly Villanueva-Ong, now Campaigns and Grey chair, was its first president, followed by Emily Abrera, now McCann-Erickson chair, the following year. The list of previous presidents is a veritable who's who in the industry's creative firmament: Cid Reyes, Grace Chong, Cherrie Gambol, Bambi Borromeo, Socky Pitargue, Jimmy Santiago, Marlyn Villapando, Melvin Mangada, Eleonor Agulto, Robert Labayen, Merlee Jayme, Edsel Tolentino, Micky Domingo among others.

Every two months, the Guild convenes to choose the best harvest from radio, print and television.

The Competition committee, headed by two chairpersons, then pre-screens the entries and conducts the competition a week after.

Composition of judges are done purely by invitation but with a stringent rule: only creative directors who have won in mainstream local or international ad competitions for the last two years preceding the judging are invited to sit in the jury.

There are two rounds in the judging: the elimination, where one chooses ad/s he or she thinks should move to the next round, and the final round. In the elimination, the scores of the judges are summed to get the average composite score. Once that is known, the judges must match that number through viva voce or open balloting. An ad that gets at least 70 percent of the judges' votes is declared Ad of the Month winner.

Because there can only be one winner in the Guild, controversies have hounded the judgings in the past. When no winners are declared for a particular month, eyebrows are raised, furors are stirred. As in any awards show competition, accusations of bloody-mindedness or biases occur. Could the reason be purely mathematical (the votes split between a number of good entries) or was it just a lean month and no outstanding work emerged and met the criteria of the jury?

The Guild is initiating several reforms this year. Like assigning a head of jury for each bi-monthly judging. A scrutiny of the list of judges and accrediting them will also be enforced. Deliberations, just like in international awards show competitions will now also be *de rigeur*.

All these will be implemented to give the industry a Guild that is highly committed to the highest level of impartiality.

The following are the Creative Guild Ad of the Year Finalists for 2001. The results will be known in a grand awards presentation night at the spanking RCBC Auditorium on April 30, 2002.

CREATIVE GUILD FINALISTS 2001

TELEVISION

Month	Ad Title	Agency
January	NU TV "Cutting Edge"	BBDO
February	NU TV "Killer"	BBDO
March	McDonald's "Exam"	Leo Burnett
	Canesten "Surgeon"	BBDO
April	Nido "Legs"	Publicis-AMA
May	Bengay "Japanese"	Leo Burnett
June	Bengay "Basketball"	Leo Burnett
July	Nokia "Car"	Aspac
	Nokia "School"	Aspac
	Skyflakes "Tattoo"	Lowe & Partners
	Joy Pop-Up "Bukid"	JWT
Sept	Antiox "Lifeline"	Basic
Nov	McDonald's "Karen"	Leo Burnett
Dec	Visa "Dining Out"	BBDO

RADIO

Month	Ad Title	Agency
April	Carl's Jr. "Professor"	JWT
June	Karate Zeon "Karate Kid"	TBWA
	Penshoppe "Drop"	Ace-Saatchi
July	Ad Congress "Miriam"	TBWA
August	Pacific Internet "Friends"	Leo Burnett
Sept	Pacific Internet "Lyrics"	Leo Burnett
Nov	Kiss "Kiss Tayo"	O & M

PRINT

Month	Ad Title	Agency
Jan	Dimensione "Cabinet"	BBDO
	Smart "Edsa"	DDB
Feb	Nescafe "Valentine's"	Publicis-AMA
	McDonald's "102"	Leo Burnett
March	Huggies "Sponge"	O & M
	Chow King "Hot Chili"	Basic
April	PLDT "Krus"	Lowe
May	Revicon "Buntis"	Basic
June	Adidas "Fence"	BBDO
July	Modess "Filo"	McCann
Aug	Baygon "Boxing"	BBDO
Sept	Dimensione "Bad Chair"	BBDO
Nov	HDC Snug Fit "Dolls"	O & M
	Lysol "Burst"	McCann
Dec	Shell Helix "Bimpo"	JWT
	Joy Pop-Up "No Tissue"	JWT

DIWA AD OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

TELEVISION

Month	Ad Title	Agency
Jan	PAMM "Tuner"	Ace-Saatchi
April	Sari-Sari "Can Do"	Lowe
	Namfrel "Busisi"	Ace-Saatchi
May	Namfrel "Pera o Kahon"	Basic
June	WWF "Bones"	BBDO
July	PCSDS "Joyce Kilmer"	DDB
Sept	I Can Serve "Bowls"	Jimenez/D'Arcy

RADIO

Month	Ad Title	Agency
March	Teodora "Nurse"	TBWA
April	Teodora "Konduktora"	TBWA
May	Teodora "Metro-Aide"	TBWA
June	Malaya "Independence Day"	JWT
Sept	GMA "Mabuhay"	TBWA

PRINT

Month	Ad Title	Agency
April	Namfrel "Basura"	Basic
June	WWF "Bones"	BBDO
Aug	Lung Month "Bullets"	JWT
Oct	Breast Cancer "Stitches"	JWT

Attention Kmart shoppers, Korea's going discount

SEOUL—The collapse of US discounter Kmart Corp. hammered home a precious lesson to retailers in South Korea's burgeoning discount sector: Be No. 1, or risk elimination.

Set to move ahead of traditional department stores for the first time, international giants are among those jostling for a bigger slice of a sector analysts see growing 30 percent this year to almost $14 billion in sales.

But as retailers race to tap the surging spending of South Korean consumers—last year credit card transactions jumped 80 percent—the risk is that they will spend far more than they can recoup in a growing but increasingly competitive market.

Shoppers prefer the display and range of goods available at discount stores to traditional open-air markets, and retailers have been quick to respond. Clean, bright interiors and more hygienic storage and packaging also draw consumers.

"To be ahead of game, you have to have as many stores as possible," said Koh Young-sil, a spokesperson for Korean-British joint venture Tesco HomePlus.

"We will be No. 1 by 2005 with 55 stores."

E-Mart in lead

E-Mart, run by Shinsegae Co. Ltd., has set the pace with 42 outlets and about a third of last year's market.

Analysts said E-Mart has stayed aggressive, expanding partly by converting parent Shinsegae's department stores into discount outlets offering fatter margins.

The firm is reaping the rewards of entering the race early, opening Korea's first discount outlet in 1993.

"The first position has been solidified and it will be hard to reverse that," said Kim Jang-woo, an analyst at Daewoo Securities Co. "I see this as a battle for second place after E-Mart."

But rivals are challenging E-Mart's lead, from the local Lotte Shopping's Magnet chain, to Tesco HomePlus and French retail giant Carrefour.

Britain's biggest food retailer, Tesco, has pledged $3 billion in investment in South Korea, where it has teamed up with Samsung Corp., parent of Korea's largest conglomerate, Samsung Group.

US retailer Wal-Mart, the world's largest, trails the pack with just nine stores but it could be a sleeping tiger.

Its massive resources could pose a threat if it chooses to acquire local rivals in its plans to boost its presence in Asia, analysts said.

But E-Mart did not view foreign rivals as a serious threat.

"In three years, one or two foreign discounters which are suffering low profit margins will be targets for mergers or acquisitions, or be forced to exit the market," Koo Hak-su, president of Shinsegae, told Reuters in a written interview.

"Foreign discounters have not gotten over cultural differences in Korea and I see that as our competitive advantage over them."

Shinsegae has forecast a 50-percent jump in earnings before taxes (EBT) at 409 billion won ($366.9 million) for 2002 compared with year earlier figures. It also expects 6.6 trillion won in sales, up 33 percent from 2001.

The success of unit E-Mart powered Shinsegae's 168-percent jump in 2001 net profit. It made 186.5 billion won on five billion won in sales, 81 percent of it generated by E-Mart.

Kmart alarm bell

The collapse in the United States of Kmart, which filed for bankruptcy in January after losing market share to Wal-Mart and other discount stores, has highlighted the need to be a market leader even in what is expected to be a rapidly growing sector.

"Kmart's fall rang an alarm bell," said Koo at Shinsegae.

For decades a titan in US retailing, Kmart's $37 billion in 2001 sales were three times the size of Korea's entire discount sector.

Analysts said discounters still hold less than 15 percent of South Korea's overall retail market, but the industry sees two or three hot years ahead, likely at the expense of department stores, family run stores and open-air markets.

"In Korea, consumers going to traditional markets will turn to discounters and this will back up a high growth in the sector for a while," Koo said.

But with about 200 discount existing stores and retailers planning 50 more this year, the signs of eventual consolidation are emerging, and the costs of rapid expansion will pressure share prices.

"Shinsegae's expansion plan will widen the gap with others, but its shares will be held back because expansion involves costs," said Koh Won-jong, head of research at SG Securities.

E-Mart plans to double its South Korean network to 85 discount stores in 2005, as well as adding seven to eight outlets to its single store in China.

Magnet will add more than 10 stores to its 24 outlets this year in a bid to boost its 13-percent market share. ***Reuters***

Best businesses to get into

By Marlo Sanchez

MANY are still looking for ways and means to start their own business. You are not alone when you believe that the single-most important hindrance for you to start now is financing. How do you finance your business idea? Where do you get the capital?

Well, fortunately money is not the single-most important factor in starting a business.

An old study by the UP-ISSI (UP Institute of Small Scale Industries) says that, "the mere existence of such financing support is not enough to motivate entrepreneurs. This points to the need for supplementary programs such as the generation of viable ideas that offer maximum profits."

That conclusion still rings true today. Empirical and anecdotal evidence indicates that mere availability of money or financing is not enough to make a mad rush toward the entrepreneurial door.

I've had retirees in my seminars who hold in their hands P1 million or more in retirement benefits, but still find it hard to impel them to start their own business. Surely it is not for lack of money.

Or take the case of a farmer-entrepreneur who keeps his land idle despite its rich fertile soil and abundant rain. Why? Because he finds it expensive to transport his produce to the market so that by the end of the day, *lugi pa sya!*

What is lacking is the opportunity to make money.

Today, any astute businessperson will say that there are more opportunities available than it was a decade ago.

May I suggest to those of you looking for a business idea to explore them in three areas where I believe the most profitable businesses will come from.

Consider the following areas:

1) Any business dealing with lifestyle
2) Communications
3) The agribusiness sector.

Lifestyle businesses

Lifestyle businesses are those that contribute to the way people want to live their lives. These are businesses that make it easier for people to go through with their day-to-day activities of living. These are businesses that give people more time for themselves, their families, and loved ones.

Examples of these Lifestyle businesses are:

1. Day-care centers—A boon for working moms without maids.
2. Facial and derma care—The battle for "Look Young, Feel Great!"
3. Laundromats—The *labandera* is a dying breed.
4. Fast-food places—The "Rice in a Box" is a quick fix for hunger.
5. Entertainment (comedy places)—Laughter is the best medicine.
6. Water service (bottled and refilling stations)—healthy living.
7. Specialized stores—Maternity Only, Baby Only, Toys only, etc.

Many businesses in the Lifestyle area were born in the last five years or so. Previously, they were not viable businesses. I guess the growing population and economy are the root causes for the need of such "new wave" businesses.

Communications businesses

The next field is in communications. It seems that the global village is getting smaller and smaller. Whereas thirty years ago, it would take a telegram to communicate in the remote barrios from Manila, today a text message is all that is needed. In one hour or less, the whole clan can learn the birth of a newborn member or the death of its patriarch.

The Internet was a mind-boggling concept to a 10-year-old five years ago, but not today. Ten-year-olds today have the skill and dexterity to operate the home computer.

You go to malls today and it seems nine out of ten mini stalls sells cell phones or cell cards. Computer stores abound. There were no cell phones or computer businesses five years ago or so.

The Internet Cafe today was a yuppie—Makati type business five years ago. But today, I've seen Internet Cafes (two of them) in Mendez, Cavite.

Besides, using cell phones and the Internet will make it easier for you to penetrate new markets outside the boundaries of your provinces. Imagine selling shoes from Biñan to Berlin via the Internet.

The prospect of E-Commerce coming to your towns is a much-awaited event. Pardon me, but I think E-Commerce is now available in your towns, even the most remote ones using WAP-capable cell phones or satellite phones.

Back to basic agribusiness

Let's go back to the basic businesses: agribusiness.

Yes, there's still money to be made in agribusiness. People still need to eat, don't they?

Getting the food to the consumers' table is still a great opportunity to explore. Growing more food is still a challenge. How to improve farm productivity provides the greatest opportunity for someone who is a green thumb or an animal lover.

Consider the various areas in agribusiness.

I heard of an enterprising young man who would text his relatives in Cebu to load in the next flight to Manila five orders of the famous *Lechon Cebu*. Considering there is a plane out to Manila every hour, this guy can literally deliver to you freshly made *Lechon Cebu* ready for your party in two hours.

This young guy took advantage of the price difference of *lechon* in Cebu and in Manila. It is now P400 per kilo in Manila. Plus of course, *Lechon Cebu* is tastier. Besides, your guests will surely be delighted if the *lechon* is imported.

Then there is this story of a mother of five who was able to send all her kids to college, buy them a brand new car each upon graduation, and today has built five homes, one for each child.

She was a dealer of corn and other ingredients of hog feeds. She would buy corn by the container load in Mindanao to deliver to hog raisers of Bulacan.

Do you know you can net at least P1,000 per jeep load of fresh *buko* as a wholesaler? Each fresh *buko* now sells retail at P13 in Metro Manila.

Do you know you can make around P15,000 net profit per *banyera* of fish using a capital of P2,000 when you buy fish from the fish port and sell it retail?

Tilapia now retails for about P70 per kilo. Growing them in lakes or man-made cages will surely give you enough spread to enjoy a good life.

Do you know that mango traders are willing to pay you about P15,000 per mango tree, in cash, as soon as they can see it flowering? What if you had 24 mature trees? You can plant a maximum of 100 mango trees per hectare, you know.

Opportunity is for you to reap

There you have it. Identify the opportunity and the capital will follow. Capital is abundant. It is the lack of business opportunities that seems to stifle the urge to start your own business now.

Do not procrastinate. Do that business now. You will thank your lucky stars when the day comes when you actually need the money from such a business.

(Marlo Sanchez is the author of Pinoybisnes Series #1 A Smart and Practical Guide for New Entrepreneurs and #2 Be Smart! Start and Manage Your Own Business available at the National Book Stores and Powerbooks.)

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

Congratulations!
PHILIPPINES
COMPANY LEADERS
Ranking
Score
'01 ('00) ('99)
6.56
1 (1) (1)
Jollibee Foods
6.44
2 (2) (2)
Ayala
6.31
3 (5) (6)
San Miguel
4 (4)
5.87
6 (–) (–)
Globe Telecom*

We, at Nokia, take pride in the latest feat of Globe Telecom—our partner in connecting people. Congratulations on ranking 6th in both leadership and quality surveys in the Far Eastern Economic Review's Top 10 Companies in the Philippines. For being the top telecommunication company in innovation in responding to your customers' needs, your achievement is a well-deserved one!

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

CAP top pre-need company for 2001

COLLEGE Assurance Plan (CAP), the pre-need industry's pioneer and undisputed leader, again emerged as the top pre-need company for 2001 in terms of gross sales, while sister company Comprehensive Annuity Plans and Pension Corp. (CAP Pension) moves up from third to second place in the pension plan category.

According to the latest report of the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) non-traditional securities and instruments department, the three top sellers of education plans from January to December 2001 were CAP with P4.48 billion, Philam Plans Inc. with P2.41 billion, and Berkley International Corp. with P2.17 billion. CAP garnered a huge 30.11-percent share of the market, while Philam Plans and Berkley International cornered 16.20 percent and 14.61 percent, respectively.

The pension plan category's top three players from January to December 2001, on the other hand, were Philam Plans with P3.297 billion, CAP Pension with P3.075 billion, and Pacific Plans Inc. with P2.815 billion.

CAP and CAP Pension's combined trust funds are likewise the biggest in the pre-need industry, which now amount to P11.7 billion. The trust fund is the amount set aside by the company to pay for maturing obligations, and acts as the primary indicator of a pre-need company's strength and reliability.

CAP and CAP Pension are ranked 111th and 348th in the SEC's 2000 list of Top 5000 corporations, respectively.

2002 BPI SCIENCE AWARDS

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) held the BPI Science Awards for 2002 at the College of Science Auditorium, University of the Philippines, Diliman recently. Shown from left are Dr. Edgardo G. Atanacio, dean of the college of engineering; Dr. Rhodora Azanza, dean of the college of science; Veronica Tapia-Merk, executive director of the BPI Foundation; Dr. Emerlinda Roman, chancellor of UP Diliman; Marko E. Arciaga (holding trophy), BS applied physics; Dr. Francisco Nemenzo, president of the UP System (inset); and Marko's parents Florencia and Alberto Arciaga. Also given the BPI Science Award for 2002 were Ericson G. Chua, BS computer engineering and Karen Kate O. David, BS molecular biology and biotechnology. The BPI Science Awardees are junior and senior students chosen based on academic performance, excellence in their specialized fields of science and contributions to industry and nation-building. Other awardees come from Ateneo de Manila University, Ateneo de Davao University, De La Salle University, Siliman University, St. Louis University, UP-Los Baños, University of Santo Tomas, and Xavier University.

Drug firm moves into new home

ASTA Medica Philippines Inc., one of the country's leading pharmaceutical firms, has moved into its new office at the second floor of the Zuellig Pharma Building, Annex II, Malugay Street, Makati City. This move will enable Asta Medica and Zuellig Pharma Corp., the country's top pharmaceutical healthcare products distributor, to work more closely together, thus providing a more efficient service to clients and customers. For more details, call 819-3091 to 92 or 812-4268.

AMA, SMARTFORCE INK PARTNERSHIP

E-learning is fast becoming popular among students, young professionals, and overseas Filipino workers who would like to become IT certified and globally recognized. This self-paced, on-line study program was first offered in the Philippines by AMA Computer University (Amacu) in partnership with the leading e-learning solutions provider, SmartForce. Amacu e-learning curriculum includes on-line training and pre-testing exercises based on a comprehensive computer-based training (CBT) program and SmartForce modules that are attuned to the latest applications of Microsoft, Oracle, A+, Lotus, Novell, and e-commerce. An agreement was penned between Amacu president Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V and SmartForce CEO Robert Poynter to provide heightened 'e-learning' facilities on all AMA local campuses and foreign networks. Also shown are (from left) Amable C. Aguiluz IX, AMA Education System (Amaes) president; Pennie Stevens, SmartForce-Asean channel account manager; Carolyn Byrne, learning manager of SmartForce, and the members of the Amaes executive board and SmartForce officials.

Product FILES

A heartful of Domino's Cheese Lover's Affair

FILL THE AIR with sweet tenderness and warm your hearts with Domino's Cheese Lover's Affair. Your favorite fresh pizza topped with indulgent portions of 100-percent real mozzarella cheese and creamy cheddar cheese sauce paired with Nestle's luscious Choco Cookie Cheesecake Ice Cream. It's the perfect combination that will surely make every bite an affair to remember. Order now and enjoy each slice with your special someone right at the comfort of your own home, because at Domino's we make sure you get your order in just 30 minutes, guaranteed. The promo is available in medium size pizzas at two exciting meal choices of P299 and P499 up to March 15 only.

TELECOMS JOINT VENTURE

Jutron Oy of Finland chair Teijo Hilden (third from left) engages Intex Telecom Systems president Edgardo Limon (second from left) in a handshake after the signing of their joint venture agreement forming the Jutron Asia-Pacific Inc. to distribute shelters, towers and monopoles for cell sites and other telecommunication structures in the country. Also shown are Jutron Oy president Rainer Partanen (left) and Intex senior vice president Benjamin Bustos (right).

NFWCP IS 81

The National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines, the largest and oldest women's organization in the country, celebrated its 81st year with an anniversary luncheon at the Manila Hotel. Five living clubwomen who have served the longest were honored: Dr. Minerva Laudico, Dominga V. Santiago, Eufrocinia Abalos, Victorina Limpo and Mary Mendoza. Shown, seated from left, are Dely Lagumbay, Ester Sta. Ana, Dr. Concordia Pascual (president), Laudico, Abalos, Santiago, Limpo, Mendoza, Olive Tiu and Moleng Quinto. Standing, from left, are Edna Dulay, Ditas Remulla, Juanita Bernabe, Leonarda Camacho, Rosario Villar, Lourdes Quezon, Adelina Rodriguez, Dominga Narag, Estrelita Ruiz and Luz Borja.

Clips

Insam free ginseng seminar

INSAM CORP., the country's exclusive distributor of Cheong-Kwan-Jang Korean Red Ginseng, will conduct a free seminar about the neutraceutical food supplement and its capacity for prevention of health disorders and retardation of diseases. The seminar will be on Saturday, March 9, at Unit 401 Kassel Condominium, 2625 Taft Avenue near corner Vito Cruz Street, Manila. Insam business development officer Do-Anne Aliwalas conducts the seminar. Since the 1940s, Cheong-Kwan-Jang (meaning government-controlled products) has been used as the brand name of Korean Red Ginseng. For more details, call 526-4399 or 0919-6713666.

Free sample lessons at Speechpower

SPEECHPOWER, dubbed as the country's leading institution in speech communication training, has announced that its free sample lessons for better speech, grammar and language, public speaking, personality development, and leadership training skills will be held at all Speechpower branches on March 8. Furthermore, for special intensive courses exclusively for college students and professionals, additional free sample lessons will also be held at Speechpower branches in Cubao (March 18 and 20), Taft (March 19 and 21), España (March 20 and 25), and Biñan (March 31).

SJC-CAS alumni grand reunion

THE ST. Joseph's College, Quezon City College of Arts and Sciences, is holding a grand homecoming party for its alumni on April 28, from 2 p.m. onwards at the College Gym. The event coincides with the school's 70th jubilee celebration. There will also be ballroom dancing later in the day. On hand to welcome the alumni are CAS dean Sr. Esperanza Vistro, SFIC and school president Sr. Mercedes Salud. For registration and other details, call 721-5051, 723-0221 local 135, or fax 725-5197.

TOTAL SUPPORTS DZMM ENVIRONMENT RUN

TotalFinaElf Philippines (Total Phils.), one of the strongest new players in the local oil industry, renews its commitment to the environment as it once again supports ABS-CBN's AM station DZMM Radyo Patrol's 'Takbo Para sa Kalikasan', an annual event that raises funds for environment enhancement projects. Present during the contract signing were (seated, from left) Rona Quejada, manager for corporate affairs of Total; Peter Musngi, station manager of DZMM; (standing, from left) Bing Palao, manager for radio promo of DZMM; Mitch Ramos of Motivators; May Catherin Ceniza, executive producer/head for special projects of DZMM; Jojo Garcia, sales director of DZMM; and Jera Sison of Full Circle Communications. Joining for the second consecutive year as major sponsor, proceeds for the 'Takbo Para sa Kalikasan' will go to the continuing mangrove resuscitation along Manila Bay.

WORLDBEX SEMINAR-BRIEFING

Worldbex 2002, the ultimate international building and construction trade show, recently conducted a briefing for exhibitors where architect Francisco Flameno, Jr. (inset) of Worldbex gave them an overview of what to expect during the March 13 to 18 exposition at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Some 500 exhibitors, 23 industry associations, the US Commercial Service and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines have already signed up to be part of Asia's biggest building and construction exposition. Worldbex 2002 is supported by the following sponsors: Eurotiles, Boysen Paints, Wilsonart, Emerald Vinyl, Mariwasa, Multi Rich Home Decors Inc., Charter Chemical and Coating Corp., Nuovo Legno Inc., Neltex, Automation and Security (the official security and registration system), Puriflex, National Bookstore, Air Philippines (the official airline), Techniline (the official telecom provider), Chase Technologies Corp., The Brain Computer Corp., World Wide Web (the official ISP), Café Puro, Orient Pearl Seafood and Restaurant, Hungfu Dimsum House, and Southeast Asia Building Magazine.

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Bank shows bias for SMEs

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co

IN A speech before a recent business and industry forum, Remedios L. Macalincag, president of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), named eight priority industries where DBP will proactively focus its assistance.

In her talk, Macalincag also underscored the bank's bias for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which gave rise to the "SME Development Approach," and translated into various specialized lending programs for the sector, including the Industrial Support and Services Expansion Program (Issep), otherwise known as a "credit plus" program.

SME Bias

The bank's SME bias derives from the nature of SMEs as a driving force of the economy, she said.

SMEs comprise 99 percent of all establishments, employs 67 percent of the labor force, and contributes some 22 percent to the Gross National Product, SMEs are at the core of every administration's fight against poverty, Macalincag explained.

This was translated into various financial and non-financial assistance to small and medium enterprises.

As of Aug. 31 last year, SME borrowers of DBP numbered 6,683, comprising 89 percent of its total number of borrowers. Likewise, 13,055 or 91 percent of total number of accounts are SME loans.

An SME department was recently organized to give further impetus to the bank's SME development mission.

Large enterprises, too

At the same time, Macalincag adds, assistance will continue for large enterprises, for their vital role in helping small enterprises emerge, prosper and grow through sub-contracting, supplier and other complementary relationships.

"We continue to look into the synergies and linkages between SMEs and large enterprises to ensure a holistic approach to development," she said.

The priority list of industries is aligned with the investment priorities plan, the medium term Philippine Development Plan (1999-2004), University of Asia and the Pacific's list of sunrise industries, and its own Industry Sector Analysis Report.

Priority industries

The list includes the following:

Information and communication technology—clusters include micro electronics for state of the art technology, equipment and devices; telecommunications for increased access and lower cost of telecom and data networks; technology for increased investments for research; manufacturers and suppliers of building materials, water supply, power supply, solid waste management, and drainage and sewerage system for the construction and operation of IT parks and related establishments.

Social services—clusters include manufacturers and suppliers of building materials for the establishment of school, health, and social welfare institutions; manufacturers and suppliers of furniture, furnishings and other fixtures for the operation of these institutions; manufacturers and suppliers of pharmaceuticals; electrical machinery and apparatus, water supply, solid waste management, power supply, drainage and sewerage system for the operation of schools, health and social welfare institutions.

Food processing—clusters include fruit production and processing; machinery/tool and die for equipment for fruit production and processing; packaging products for fruits and vegetable juices; and technology to extend shelf life of fresh fruits.

Furniture—clusters include wood processing subsector; equipment and machinery manufacturing and services for furniture making; manufacturers/supplier of raw materials used in furniture making such as chemicals, rattan, wood stone, metal, plastics, bamboo and leather.

Motor vehicle parts—clusters include machinery/tool and die in the production of motor vehicle parts; petrochemicals for paints and chemicals used in the production of these parts; steel/steel products for the production of these parts; technology for upgrading technical competence of manpower and adoption of international standards.

Electrical machinery and apparatus—clusters include manufacturers and suppliers of raw materials such as porcelain enamel, cold rolled sheets, cast iron, tape heads, pressed metal parts, wires, speakers, plastic parts and cabinets used in the production of electrical machinery and apparatus.

Trunks, suitcases, vanity cases, briefcases—clusters include tanneries; manufacturers and suppliers of raw materials used in the production of trunks, suitcases, vanity cases, briefcases, etc. such as leather, chemicals, synthetics/textiles, accessories; and firms engaged in the exports of these products.

Ships, boats and floating structures—clusters include ports, ship repair yards, marine fuel oil, and environmental pollution control facilities.

Credit and beyond credit assistance

Macalincag also expounded on DBP's credit and beyond-credit assistance to SMEs.

Credit assistance comes in a number of specialized lending programs—most of them of the softest terms and available through a national network of participating financial institutions—to serve the financing requirements of SMEs.

Technical Skills Development Program—these are just some of DBP loan facilities open to the country's SMEs.

On the other hand, "beyond credit assistance" refers to technical assistance, business consultancy, marketing support and human resource development to build SME's capacity and fill in gaps in technology.

For the growth of SMEs

Macalincag singled out the Issep as a model of a facility that combines both credit and beyond credit assistance. It is for SMEs that eye expansion, modernization and growth, she said.

Loan amounts are substantial—up to P100 million. Repayment period is considerate of SMEs—up to 15 years. The program is adaptable—applicable to a wide range of uses, from investment expenses (plant, equipment, R&D and related training) to working capital. Interest rates are liberal—2 percent below market rates. *(For inquiries on the DBP's ISSEP program, call up Industrial Restructuring and Research (IRR) at 867-3221 or the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Department, 815-0942 and 819-1403.)*

SMEs comprise 99 percent of all establishments

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Hint: Check out the pages of Lifestyle section on Monday, March 11 for Inquirer's My Wishbox.

Investors pay up for independent researcher's views

NEW YORK—These days, investors are hunting for a product Wall Street doesn't have to offer: Hard-hitting, independent research.

That's why Howard Schilit, a former accounting professor who investigates accounting ploys to identify cases where investors are being misled, is seeing his business thriving.

His service is gaining momentum as Wall Street securities analysts, the traditional source of buy-and-sell recommendations for investors, have seen their status slip.

These are the dark days for Wall Street's research units: Criticism has swirled around analysts, many of whom issued wildly optimism reports on stocks, especially tech shares, even as they tumbled. The low point came as many were still issuing "buy" recommendations just days before Enron Corp.'s collapsed.

"Given the Enron debacle, investors are looking for additional research capability, particularly on accounting issues," said Franklin Morton, head of research at Ariel Capital Management which oversees $6 billion in assets. "They need another set of eyes because most money managers cannot count on Wall Street's recommendations."

But for Schilit, who founded Center for Financial Research and Analysis in 1994, things couldn't be better. His more skeptical view of stocks is a strong selling point in a market wracked with uncertainty, as it has been for months.

"Even before Enron, our business picked up dramatically with Sept. 11," said Schilit.

Schilit's firm had already created something of stir with reports that found accounting problems and irregularities. In the late '90s, he was among the first to attack the accounting methods of Internet companies such as Microstrategy before their share prices collapsed.

He also made a name for himself by calling attention to problems at Sunbeam and Cendant before their problems came to light.

"When people got nervous, they buy our service just like people buy insurance," said Schilit. "Now, with all the attention, it's nice—but it's exhausting."

Fund investors pay handsomely to get the service, which costs tens of thousands of dollars a year. The subscriber list has grown to 470 institutional investors and mutual funds, including Fidelity Investments and Putnam Investments, and hedge funds—who make money by betting the stock prices will go down—making up some 40 percent of the list.

The firm has been adding some 10 new clients each month in the past couple of years, and the rate has doubled in January and quadrupled in February, said Schilit, who is now also expanding his business to Europe and Asia.

The growth hit a spurt at the onset of the Enron scandal, in which ex-auditor Andersen admitted its partners had destroyed documents related to its audit, and Enron allegedly concealed critical financial information from investors.

"It's useful to have independent CPAs (Certified Public Accountants) because auditors are paid by companies," said Joe Stocke, chief investment officer at StoneRidge Investment Partners, who has subscribed to Schilit's reports in the past two years. "Independence is what we find useful."

Fraud detective

Back in the Rockville outfit in suburban Md., Schilit's staff of 12 analysts are crunching numbers in companies' 10-Ks and 10-Qs and buried footnotes in annual reports. The job is to detect early signs that a company is headed for trouble by focusing on aggressive accounting moves that might camouflage a sagging business.

"Money managers need our research because they don't have as much knowledge to understand accounting quirks," said Schilit, who in 1993 published a book, "Financial Shenanigans: How to Detect Accounting Gimmicks & Fraud in Financial Reports," an instant hit among financial professionals.

The firm, which now covers some 600 public companies, in a typical day would alert clients of potential financial problems in two US and a European firms.

Schilit doesn't get credit for blowing the whistle on Enron's accounting woes. His firm of six analysts at the time was busy tracking the technology, healthcare and retailing companies that it covered for clients.

Still, he's considered enough of an expert on Enron that he was called to testify before Congress in hearings last week on the collapsed company—and he was critical of the methods analysts used to cover the energy trading giant. Enron's weak cash flow should have sent a warning, he said.

"Enron's profits for a period of six months were $1 billion, but its cash flows were negative," said Schilit. "That should have raised the flag."

Responding to the analysts' complaint that Enron fooled them into believing it was a good investment, Schilit told the congressional panel that the risks underlying Enron's complex balance sheet were plain to see for anyone who cared to look closely.

Analysts, including Raymond Niles at Citigroup Inc. unit Salomon Smith Barney and Curt Launer at Credit Suisse First Boston, clung firmly to "buy" and "strong buy" ratings on Enron's stock even as it lurched toward bankruptcy.

"For any analyst to say there were no warnings in the public filings, well, they couldn't have been reading the same filings I read," Schilit told the Senate panel last Wednesday. His new book on financial shenanigans, due to come out in March, has a chapter on Enron.

All information Schilit uses to spot companies' potential financial scams is accessible to any investor, he said. ***Reuters***

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MAKE A FIRM OR PRODUCT STAND OUT

Branding: The CEO's latest challenge

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE BREAKING down of trade barriers and the influx of different goods from across the globe have made it more difficult for manufacturing and service firms to hold their customers.

In the world as we know it today, there are always new companies producing goods and enticing the consumer. Conversely, there are companies whose products become obsolete in a matter of weeks or months.

This phenomenon of increasingly finicky consumers and shorter life cycles of products have made brands more important to a company than ever before. For many companies, it has become the best way of keeping consumers into their fold, no matter what the other competitor says.

Branding expert Paul Temporal says in his latest book, "Advanced Brand Management," that strong brands "differentiate companies and products from their competitors, make access to new markets and industries easier, provide returns on investment and best of all—no life cycle if they are looked after and managed well."

Temporal stresses that brands give companies longevity, and the potential for immortality. Just take the case of Coca-Cola, which has been around for 120 years and the Tide washing powder that has been a market leader in its category for 50 years.

Their secret was the early realization that brand management is as important as business management.

What is brand management?

Temporal defines brand management as a process of taking control over everything a brand does and says, and the way in which it is perceived.

"This means identifying clearly what your brand stands for, its personality and how to position it so that it appears different and better than competing brands. It involves integrated communications, and constant tracking of the brand and the competitors," she adds.

The ultimate goal of this process is to increase the value of the brand over time and how it is measured.

"One of the hardest parts of brand management is to achieve a balance between the short-term numbers given by top management to satisfy various stakeholders and the long-term growth of the brand," he says.

Industry data show that brand management does have an effect on the bottom line with branded companies accounting for around 70 percent or more of the market capitalization of the American and British stock markets.

Brands even have monetary values. Strong brands like Coca-Cola and Marlboro are worth billions of dollars and all that these companies represent are goodwill with consumers and access to the markets.

In the Philippines, for example, San Miguel Corp. bought Star Margarine and Sugarland because of the brand value as well as the business potential.

He says that brand management starts with having a clear brand strategy.

"Every aspect of brand management should be driven by the strategy of the brand, whether corporate or product," Temporal says.

Brand dimensions

Temporal says in his book that the key aspects of brand performance or strength are:

- Price premium—the additional price that consumers will pay for the brand compared to other offers
- Satisfaction/loyalty—levels of satisfaction with the brand that help determine loyalty and price sensitivity
- Perceived quality—relative to other brands
- Leadership—in terms of market leadership, connected to market share
- Perceived value—a value-for-money concept linked not just to tangible items but also to intangible factors
- Brand personality—the characteristics of the brand's character that differentiate it from others
- Mental associations—the most important one being trust
- Brand awareness and recognition—key measures of brand strength concerned with how well the brand is known in the market
- Market share—volume, and in some cases perceived positioning
- Market price—premiums enjoyed by the brand
- Distribution coverage—including percentage share.

"There is no absolute score for these dimensions, but this mix of attitudinal, behavioral and market measures of brand equity should be the focus for good brand management practice," Temporal explains.

Temporal predicts that with more companies going into brand management, consumers would respond more to brands that "care." These brands will be the super brands of the future.

"They will be able to balance profitability with social responsibility. They will balance brand spirit with human spirit. They will be less unilateral in their actions and more altruistic. They will behave not as businesses, but as living entities that care for what happens in the world, and for the people who live in it. Above all, they will focus on relationship building and brining people together," he says.

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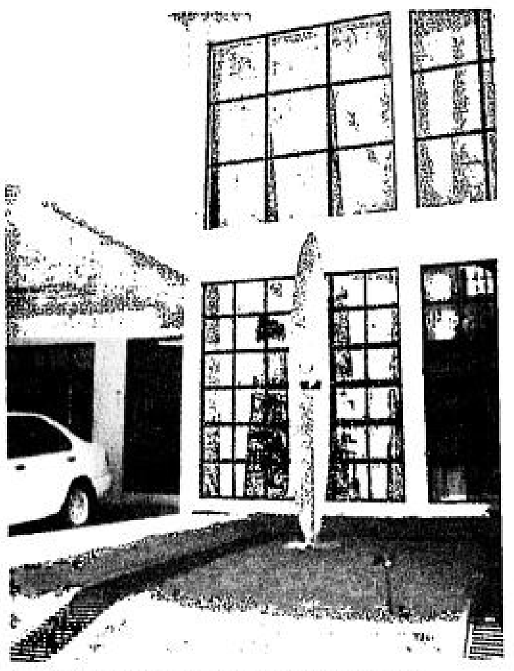
An art gallery of a townhouse



HIP TO BE SQUARE. Impy Pilapil's elongated metal sculpture, "Witness," softens the townhouse's stark-white walls and rigid steel-and-glass panels.

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

GEORGE and Dada Martinez's all-white townhouse in Tagaytay had been empty since its completion in 1997. The two-story minimalist structure with steel-and-glass paneling, a cross between contemporary Japanese and Scandinavian architectures designed by architect Raul Locsin, would have been a perfect hideaway for the family who used to frequent nearby Tagaytay Highlands every weekend. For some reason, George hadn't been bold enough to make the big move until good friend Albert Avellana convinced him to do so.

This was late last year.

Thanks to Avellana's expert advice, the Martinezes, particularly George, have transformed an empty shell of a house into a weekend sanctuary that doubles as a repository of the man's art collection. The renovation took less than four months.

George has never considered himself a "serious" art collector, but through the years he has acquired a sizable number of artworks by such artists as Arturo Luz, F.B. Concepcion, Francisco Doctolero, Bobby Nuestro, Eugene Jarque, Lexygius Calip, Jecky Alano and Lao Lianben.

"It all started with this piece," says George, pointing to Concepcion's huge oil that hangs by the living room. "I intended to put it and other paintings in my office, but there simply wasn't enough space. Same with our house in Magallanes Village."

Albert, a gallery owner and occasional interior decorator, then broached the idea of featuring the piece and other artworks on the townhouse's extensive white walls. Concepcion's piece, "Fragment of Reality," an abstract done in bold and sweeping strokes, acts as a perfect foil to the bare living room wall.

Awash with light

The entire first floor is awash with light from both natural and artificial sources. Glass-and-steel panels that extend from floor to ceiling impart the living room and stairwell with a light, airy feel. Rather than cover the windows with huge, heavy drapes, Albert has opted for long, narrow panels made of a white nonwoven mate-

AN ART/ p.D6

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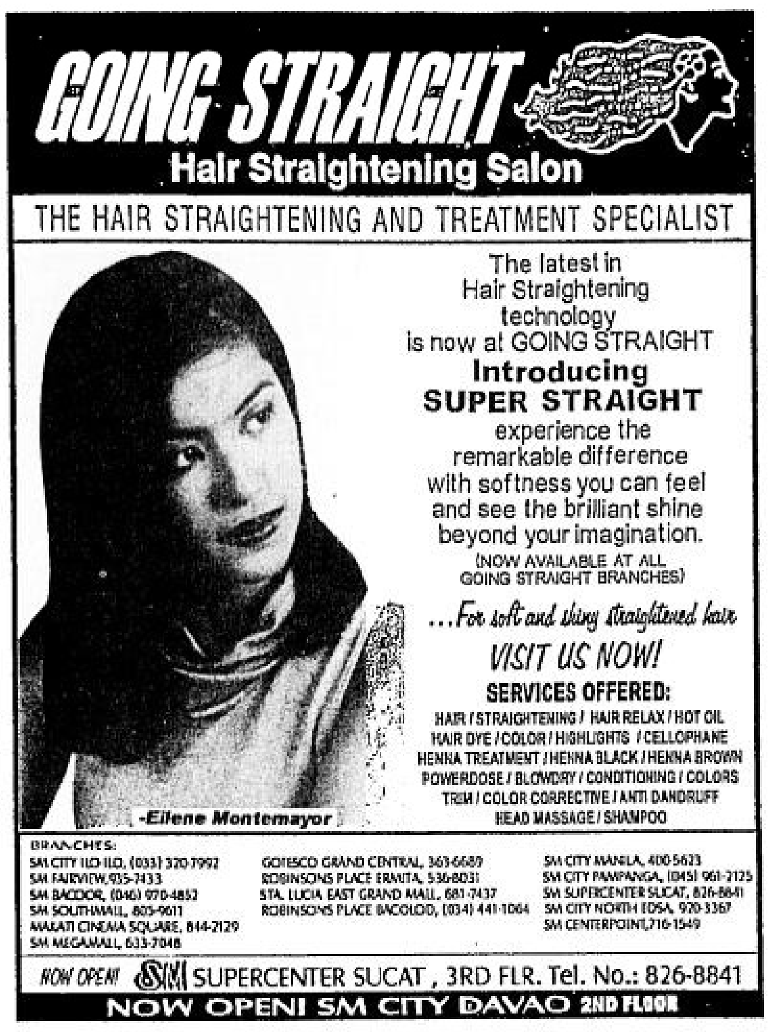

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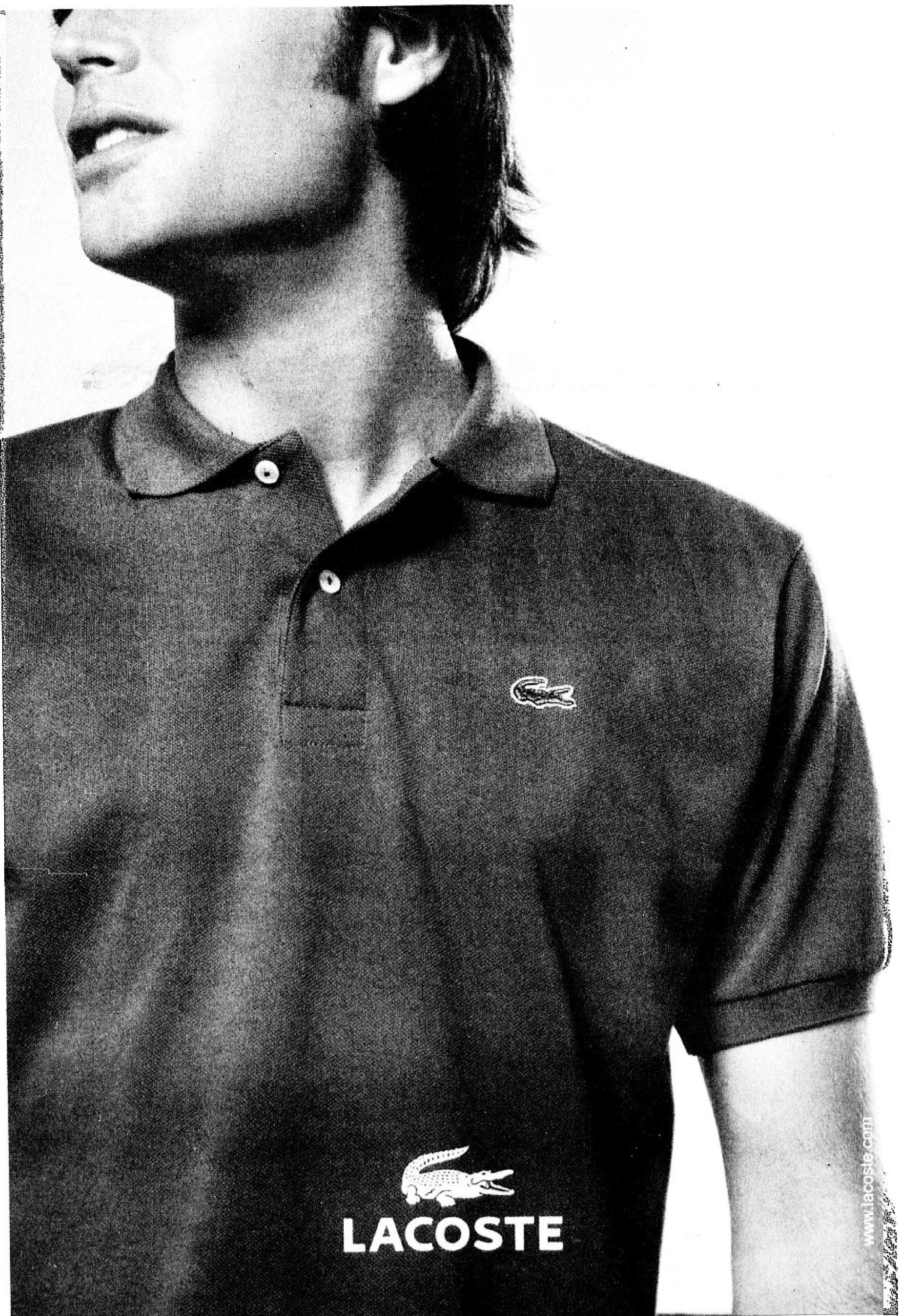

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Spot the difference between a repro and real thing

SUSANN Lara, founder of Arts of Asia Works of Art, stresses the need to get value for your money during financially critical times.

She says this applies as well to collectors of classical Chinese furniture, especially with the proliferation of repro pieces in the market.

"... If you're looking for pieces that are truly worth something, and will be even more so generations from now, it pays to be able to distinguish the authentic from a repro," Lara says.

Her store specializes in authentic Chinese pieces from the Ming (1368-1644 AD) and Qing (pronounced *ching*, 1644-1911 AD) periods. Arts of Asia offers pieces ranging from jade carvings to robes to furniture. Lara, who scours the faraway provinces of China for items for her store and oversees their restoration herself, gives the following tips to help you track down a prized, authentic (antique) piece and keep away from repros:

Original cane. "Watch out for pieces with original cane (rattan) especially in chairs or stools, because it is extremely unusual for Chinese furniture to retain the original woven seat. Early pieces (such as baskets), which were handmade, incorporated geometric designs and Chinese calligraphy. Newer ones are plain and woven in one direction."

Worn-out legs. "In chairs, legs are the most worn-out part; chipping at the edges are expected of authentic Chinese pieces. Footrests are also worn out because the Chinese put their feet there especially during the cold months, since most early Chinese homes had cold stone floors." Earlier chairs are higher than new ones.

Facial details in carvings. "In carvings, especially those that depict human figures, the facial features in authentic pieces are so well defined that no two faces are exactly the same. In repros, the scenes and wardrobe [may differ] but the facial features are alike."

Natural signs of wear and tear. "Burn marks on an altar table, rounded edges at the corners of tables and cabinets, indentations in the footrests, chipping of lacquer at [cabinet] door edges, worn-out lacquer on the seats of chairs, water stains on table tops" are some of the signs to look for.

Tight joints. "Old pieces were made with more precision. The construction of joints was so tight, it was as if glue was used to put them together. Imitation pieces have loose joints." Metal nails were not used back then but handmade and, therefore uneven, wooden pegs.

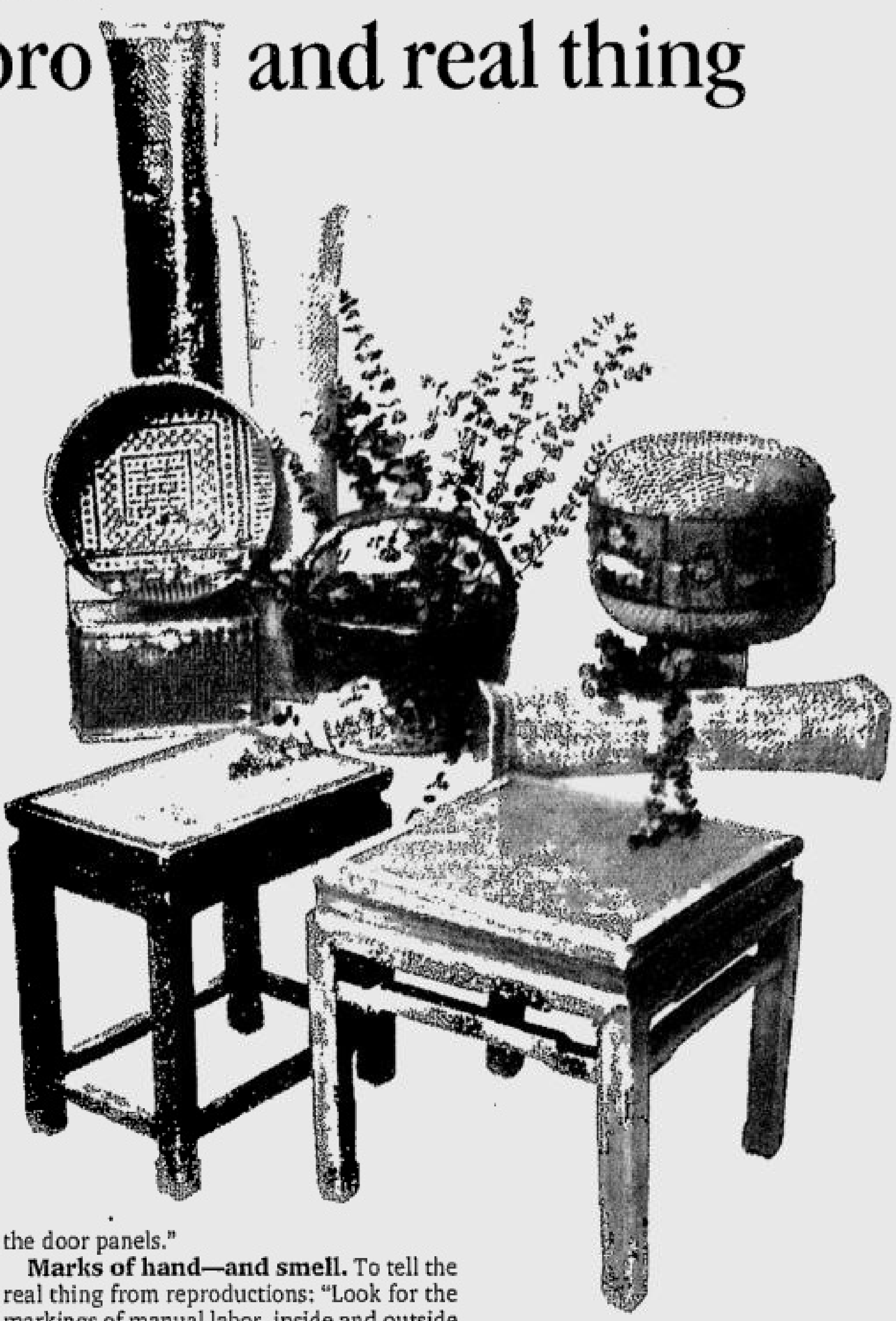
Beat-up metal ware. "The metal ware is usually corroded, dented, rusty. You will also notice that [such items are] a bit uneven, less precisely made because no molds were used. On some old pieces, 'white brass' was used to mimic silver."

Tired tops. "Countertops show signs of aging, especially soft woods because they are easier to dent, while the backs may not show so much aging."

Secret compartments. "Copies don't bother with the secret compartments that were customary for every cabinet in a Chinese household. Before, there were no banks or safes for storing valuables, so furniture was made in the owner's house according to his specifications and included secret compartments. Most of the time, the owners were the only ones who knew where and how a certain cabinet held its secret compartment. The most common secret drawer was located beneath the door panels."

Marks of hand—and smell. To tell the real thing from reproductions: "Look for the markings of manual labor, inside and outside a piece. Because of the absence of modern tools, you will see the uneven marks of the chisel and axe. Some furniture makers do this intentionally, but leave a pattern—it's too regular, almost like a design. The most important thing to do is to smell the interiors. If [the piece is] authentic, you can still smell the stuff that was stored there: old fabric, herbs, goat's milk. Nobody can copy that."

Visit Arts of Asia Works of Art at 11 Jupiter St., Makati City (annex of Urban Building); 4/L Interior Center, SM Megamall B; and at The Promenade, Alabang Town Center, Alabang. Calf 899-3802 or 895-7907.



PIECES with original cane (rattan), especially chairs or stools, indicate authenticity. An example is this pair of cane-top stools, an early form of chairs in Chinese furniture history. On baskets, take note of handmade geometric designs and Chinese calligraphy, such as those in the baskets on the upper left side of this photo. The rectangular cane pieces are actually pillows. Also in the picture is a round woven basket with painted wooden frame.

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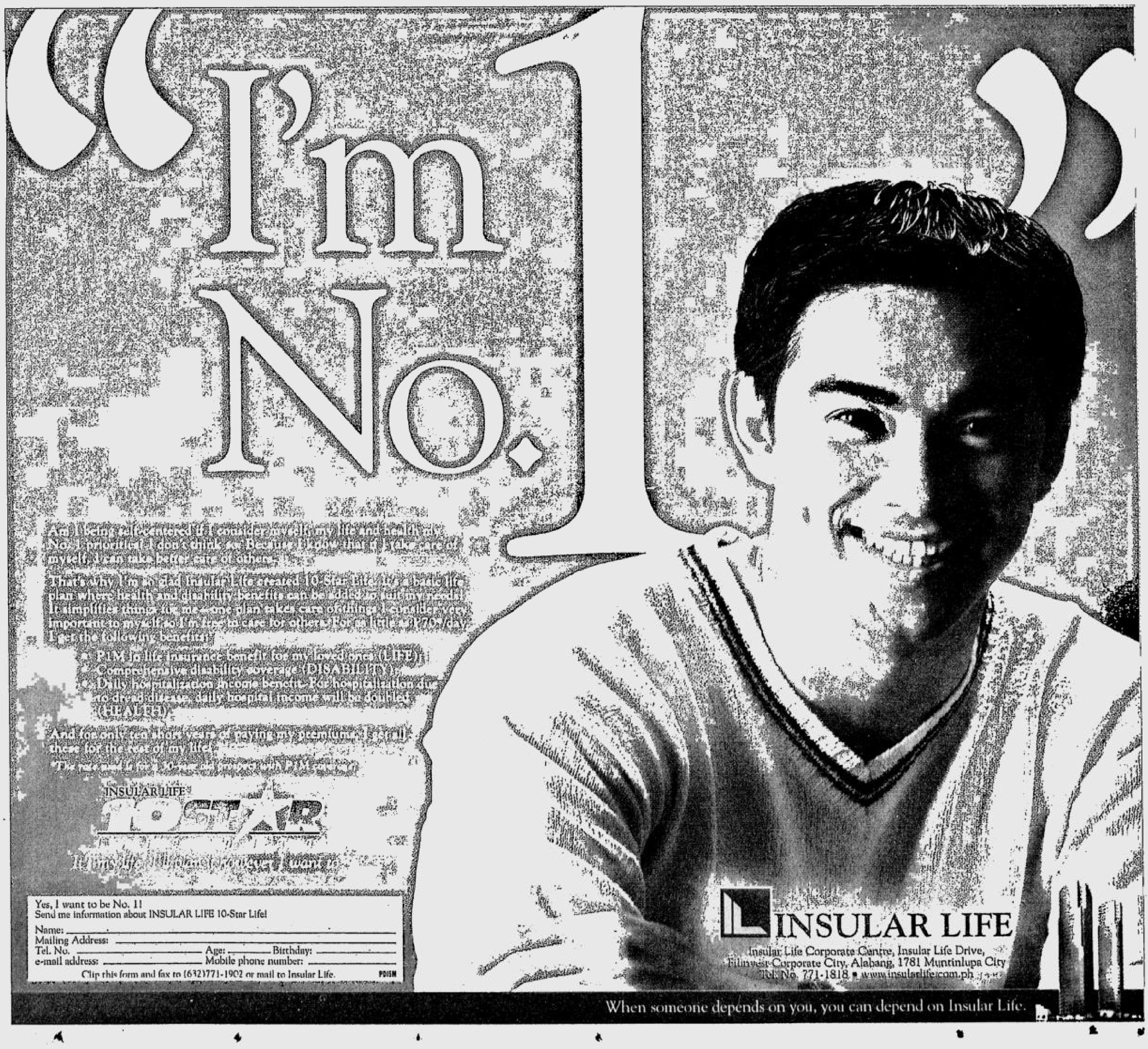
With his revolutionary designs and creations, Lalique was hailed king of art nouveau jewelry. He drew his inspiration from nature and took his lead from the Japanese artists the West discovered at the Great Exhibitions. He crafted jewelry and sculptures in unique plant and animal forms.

The Lalique jewelry collection is available at Deco Centrum, 1 Annapolis St. corner Edsa, Greenhills, San Juan.



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Family cooking utensils to be launched

WOLF Appliance Co., one of the world's leading manufacturers of handcrafted, innovative cooking products for 70 years now, will unveil its Designer Series, a showcase of family cooking instruments that will offer cooks superior performance and convenience during the 7th Worldbex 2002.

Scheduled March 13-17 at the World Trade Center in Manila, WorldBex will feature the latest Wolf cooking instruments that blend the latest in appliance design and beauty. The new line features handcrafted ovens with premium stainless-steel finishes: carbon stainless steel, platinum stainless steel as well as the classic stainless-steel finish, including ovens with a blue porcelain interior. Custom-made to suit the taste of passionate cooks, Wolf ovens offer a choice of framed or unframed (complete glass front) oven door for traditional or contemporary look.

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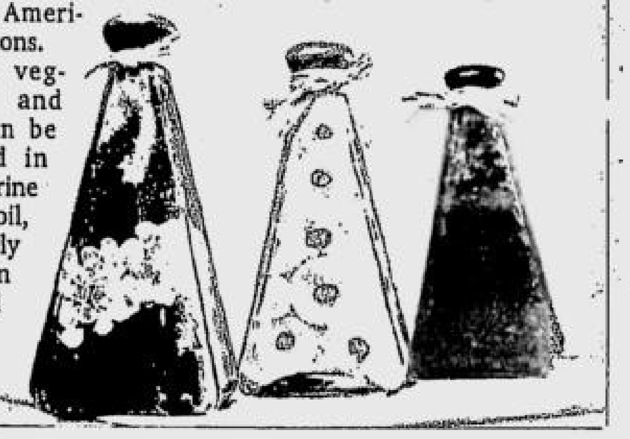

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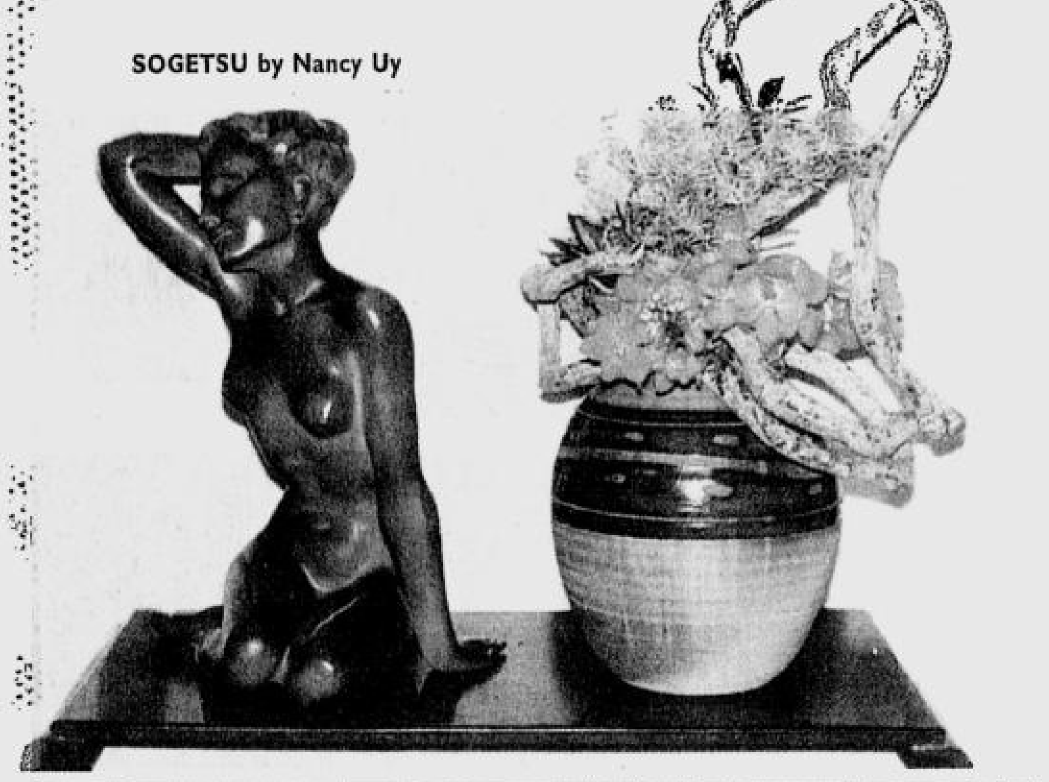
Ikebana pow-wow gets experimental



SOGETSU by Nancy Uy

By Tita V. Giron
Contributor
Photos by Roger Carpio

DISPELLING notions that ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging, is elitist, members of Ikebana International and Ikenobo Society decided to hold their latest exhibit and lecture-demonstration sessions at Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Before, they used to hold their exhibits in hotel lobbies and private function rooms, as well as the Cultural Center and selected garden shows.

To the flower people, ikebana is an art form in the class of painting and sculpture, with a recorded history that goes back to ancient Japan in the days of the shoguns and the nobility, and later of the samurai class. To become an ikebana artist, one has to join the club and train under experts. Some of these experts pride themselves in having earned certificates from well-known flower masters who run exclusive schools in Japan, Hong Kong and other places.

Ikebana artists say they want to spread appreciation and understanding of the art to the general public. Hence, the exhibit at Shangri-La Mall, which also featured free lectures and demonstrations on different styles of the ancient floral art. Subjects included Ikenobo (one of the various schools of ikebana), *sogetsu* and *ohara*. Flower teachers from Ikebana International-Nagoya Chapter dropped by and gave free demonstrations on how to arrange flowers.

Freer styles

Times are a-changing for sure, and the old styles we used to see 20-or-so years ago in local ikebana exhibits are getting fewer in recent shows. If the latest ikebana event was anything to go by, based on our amateur's impressions, the upcoming trend is toward freer styles, and the rule of the game is sheer creativity and expressionism.

As we gathered from the exhibit, contemporary ikebana artists have become daring in their use of colors, contrasts, angles and props. Their choices of materials have surely widened from the usual pieces of driftwood, stones, roots and vines. Sculptured metals and recycled scraps, for instance, are becoming more common

This was evident in the interpretation of native dances through flower arrangements, one of several theme interpretations by the members. Expressionist Rachy Cuna, for example, was in his element with an imposing *sari manok*. So were fellow team members Tita del Rosario, Elsa Regala and Rose Laurel Avancena with their interpretations of *singkil*, fan dance and *tinikling*. To project the theme, they used bamboo poles, brass jars and dried ferns, heliconias, golden shower, liliums, vandas and other props.

Quite unexpected were bonsai and *suiseki* stones used as props for the flower arrangements of Dori Bernabe, Serapion Metilla, Fely and Yumi Gupit, Ernestine Fernando and Julie Villareal. Surprisingly, the otherwise imposing bonsai and stones were inconspicuous partners to the more impressive free-style Ikenobo arranged by the group.

Uninhibited was our impression of the varied flower arrangements that played out the theme "recycled paper." Auring Villanueva had lilliums, *anahaw* and yellow statice draped around fans, while another member filled a paper shopping bag with orchids. But Miss Ingenuity was the title we silently accorded Margot Perez for her original composition using egg crates as props for her anthuriums, chrysanthemums and ochna berries.

Simplicity is cool

Simple but nonetheless impressive were the two cool flower arrangements of the Embassy of Japan prominently located near the exhibit entrance. One was a minimalist rendition with flowers and leaf in a simple vase. The other composition was a cart of flowers that evoked nostalgia. Our guide described it as freestyle, but in our book it was classic ikebana, one we understood because of its simplicity.

It will not be fair to leave out other outstanding exhibits as the compositions with two red Japanese *torei* and bridge of team three, Melissa Ignacio's torch gingers, and Charity Ingacio's spring arrangement of dianthus, mums, mickey mouse and papua foliage.

And speaking of the true classic ikebana, we thought we wouldn't spot any until we stood face to face with a solo masterpiece. A class by itself, it was a simple crystal glass bearing a single white cattleya orchid. This was supported by mums, flower buds of the *macopa* fruit tree and worm-eaten leaves of aspidistra plant.

Ikebana 2002 Floral Exhibits at Shangri-La mall was launched last week with a candle-lighting ceremony led by former senator Helena Z. Benitez, the wife of the Japanese Ambassador, Madame Mariam Ara, and Lala Fojas, general manager of Edsa Shangri-La.

It actually set the stage for a three-part Filipino-Japanese friendship program at the mall. The second event was the Ikenobo exhibit launched by Rachy Cuna and Ging delos Reyes, owner of Flower Farm Corp. Cuna, dubbed by the florist industry as the floral architect of the Philippines, appeared in a black coordinate with five silver dragonfly accessories, his own designs.

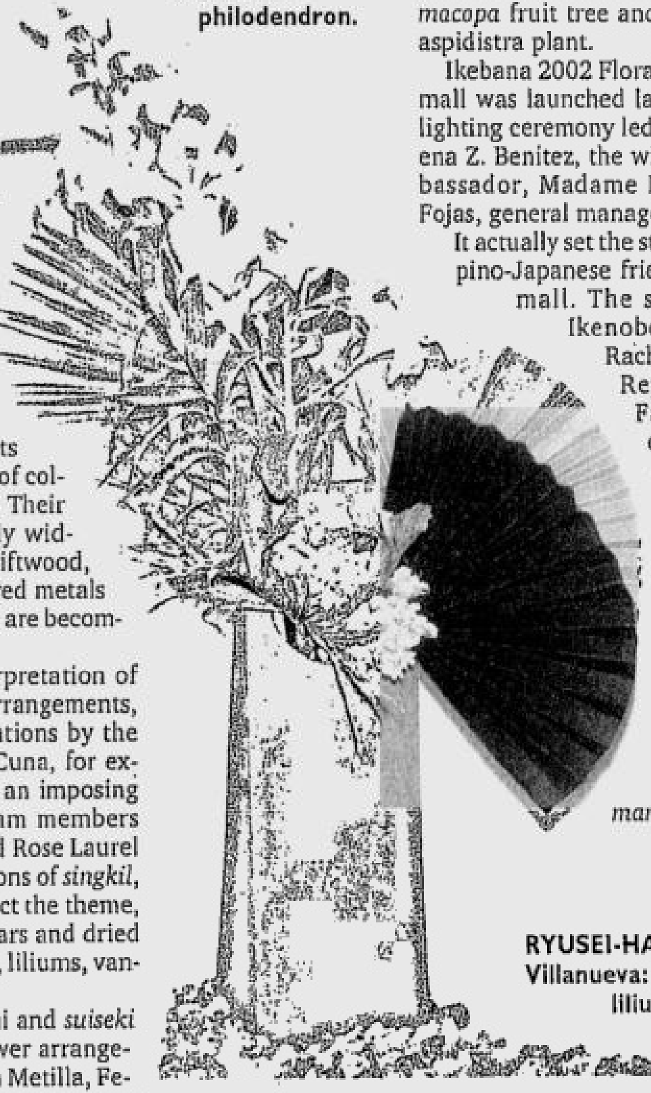
A bonsai exhibit capped the three-part exhibit.

E-mail author at mariettagiron@hotmail.com

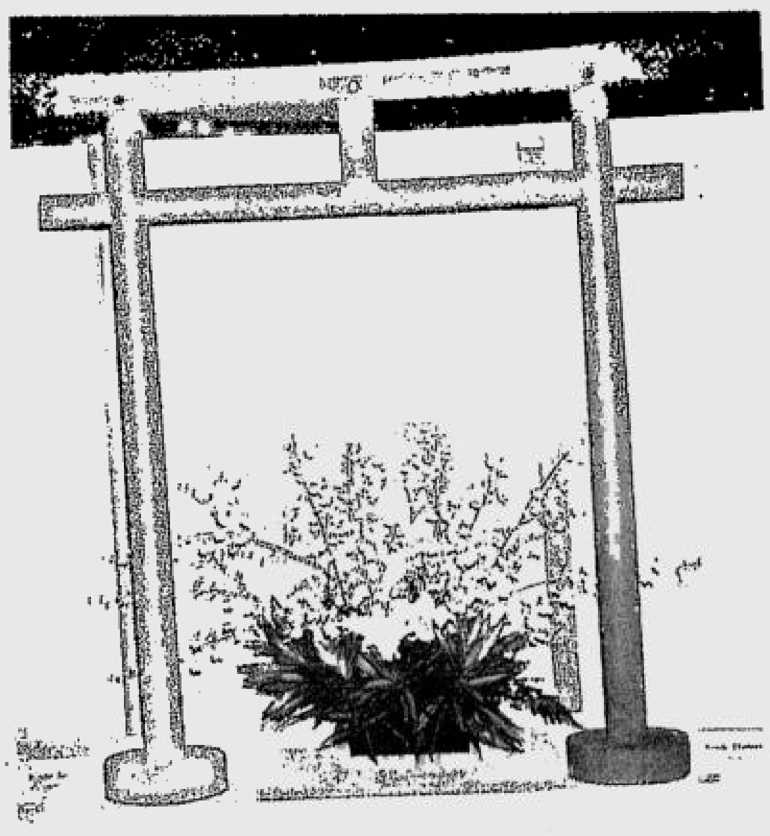
Latest Ikebana fair shows the trend is toward freer designs and experimentation

"SIMPLICITY" by Tita del Rosario: White cattleya with worm-eaten *macopa* leaves, dancing ladies orchid and aspidistra leaf

RECYCLED shopping bag of Margarita Perez has mums and philodendron.



RYUSEI-HA by Auring Villanueva: Paper fans with liliums, *anahaw* and statice



IKENOBO-SOGETSU by Tessie Thomas and Rosita Tiong: *Torei* with dancing ladies, liliums and dracaena

Los Baños flower, garden show opens today

THE 2002 flower and garden show at Los Baños will be held today until March 17. With the theme "Fiesta Time," this year's show will highlight variegated and scented plants.

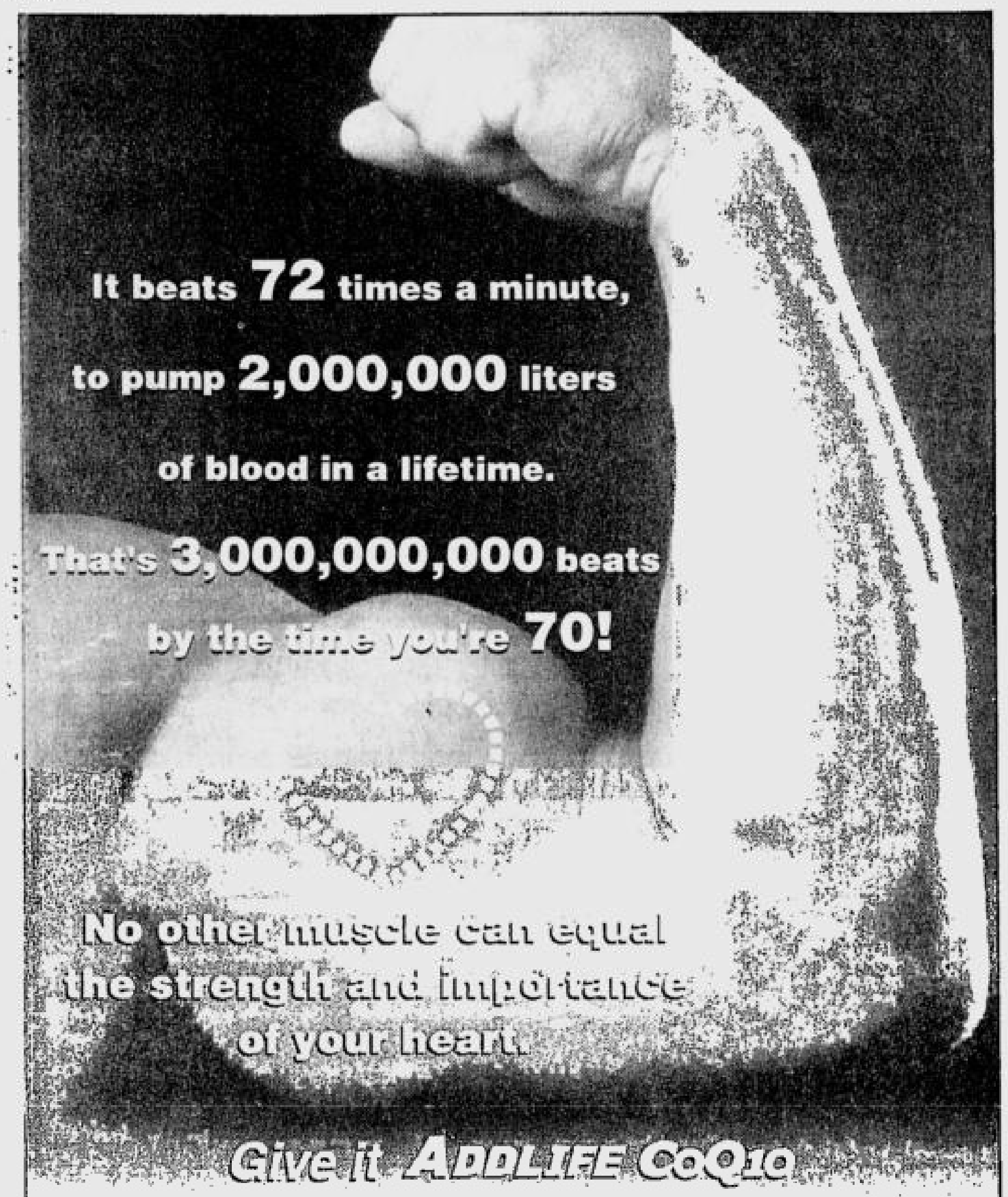
Dr. Jean Lasap, president of the Los Baños Orchid Society, said the show would also feature a concert by the Bay Central Elementary School Band at 2 p.m. tomorrow. Teacher coordinators are Emely Llameg and Arlene Santos.

Among the participants in this year's show are Dr. Lasap, Dr. Gil Divinagracia, Dr. Lee Sanchez, Tony Paharo, Sonya Belen and the gardens of Genesis, Mabuhay Orchids, Gintung Talolot and Orchids of Masapang.

The center will be arranged by CV Lazaro, Mable Chua and Ben Vergara.

Another highlight of the 10-day event is the series of lectures by plant authorities and experts on different subjects. Schedule of lecture follows:

March 9, 9:30 a.m., "Bonsai Culture" by Prof. Iderlina Guevarra; 10:30 a.m., "Dry Flower-making and Arrangement" by Dr. Corazon Azucena. March 10, 2 p.m., "Flower Arrangement" by Chris Rompe; 3 p.m., "Dish Gardening" by Dr. Teresita L. Rosario. March 16, 9:30 a.m., "Rapid Propagation of Mussaenda and other Ornamentals" by Dr. Monina Siar; 10:30 a.m., "Care of Guinea Pigs" by Vicente Chin; 2 p.m., "Solving Problems in Orchid Growing" by Dr. Vicente Saplala; 3 p.m., "Garden Maintenance" by Dr. Fernando Sanchez Jr.



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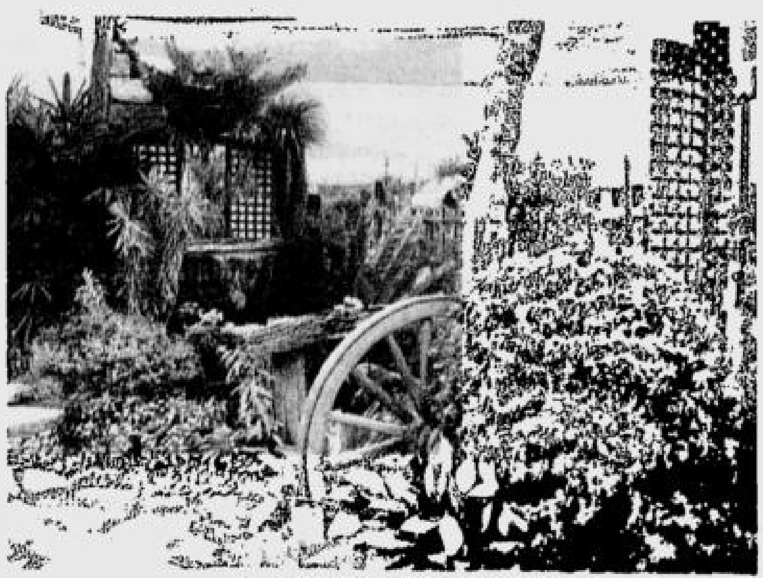

STAGHORN ferns over Rhapis palms, bird's nest fern and spathiphyllum lilies

Beautifying Baguio's terra firma

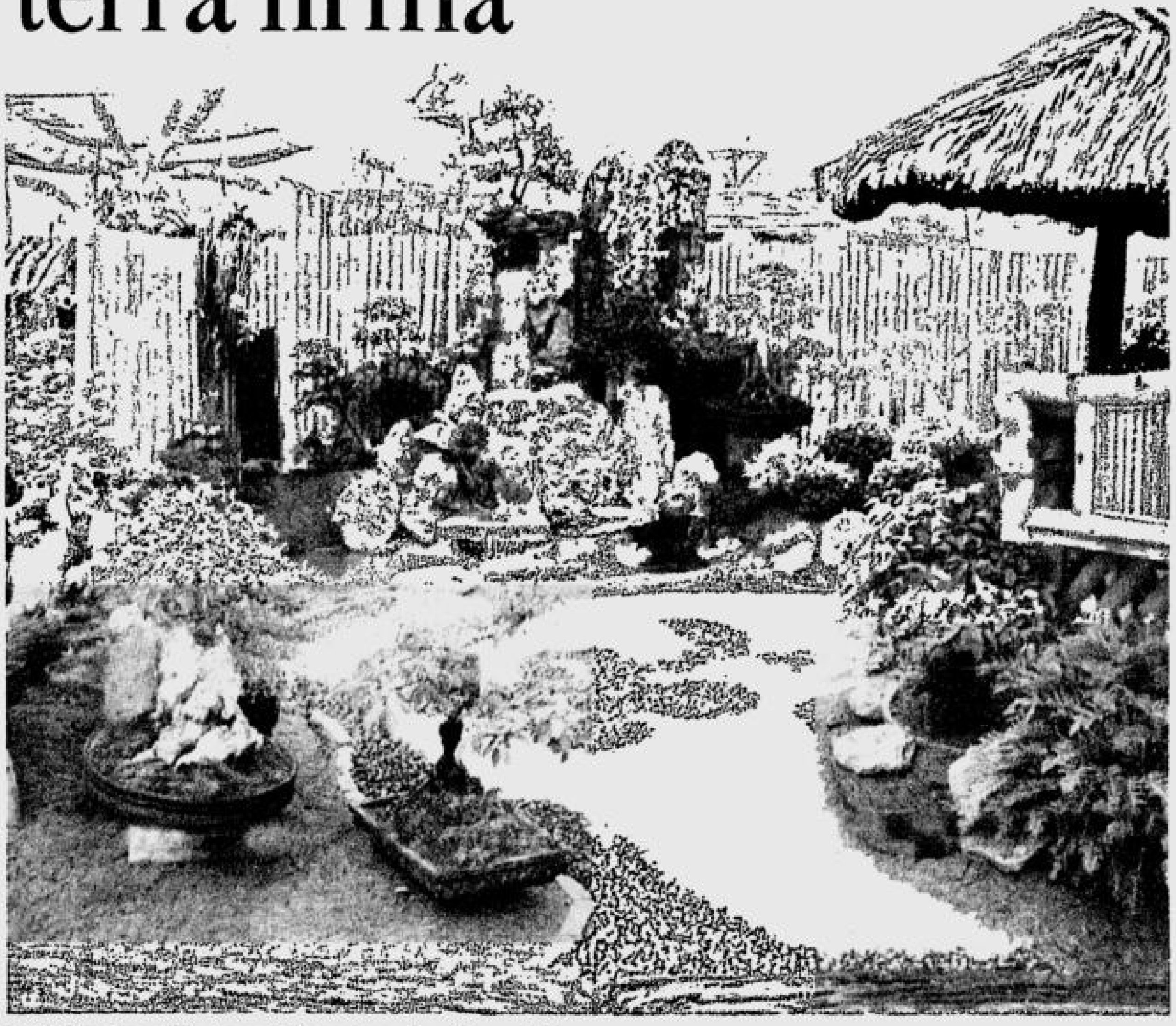
Photos by Chito Vecina

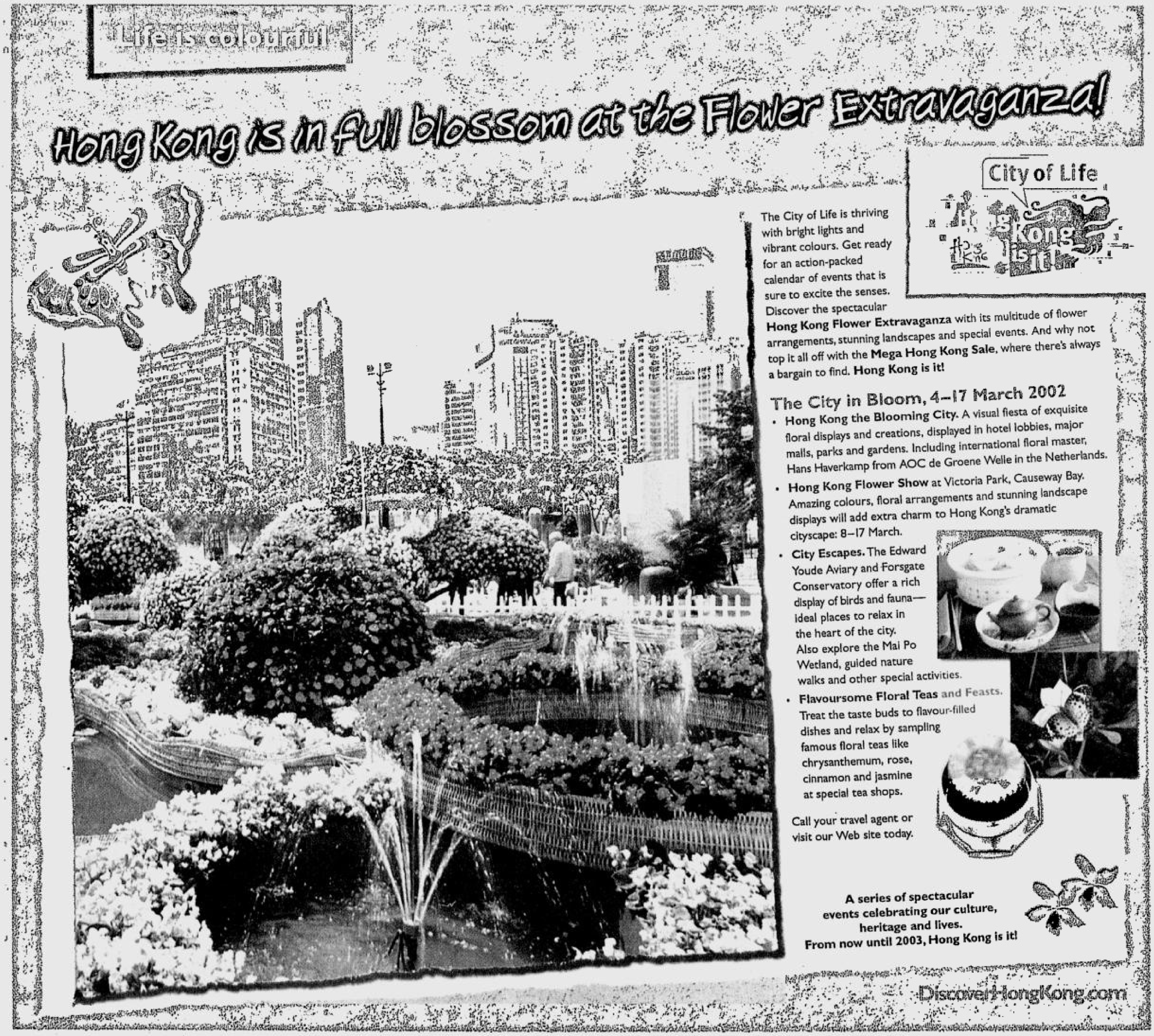
"LET a thousand flowers bloom!"

No, that's not a redux of the Cultural Revolution. That line is a literal translation of Panagbenga, the title of Baguio's annual arts festival. It's one of the reasons to hie up to the North and enjoy the cold. After the parade, the festival featured booths and stalls of interesting home plants. The festival was highlighted by several competitions, among them a landscape competition at Camp John Hay, inspired by Filipiniana and the Cordillera culture.

MILLING crowd in downtown Baguio

CACTI and succulents with bromeliads at garden exhibit


ROCK garden with bonsai, Xanadu and native orchids



Hong Kong is in full blossom at the Flower Extravaganza!

The City of Life is thriving with bright lights and vibrant colours. Get ready for an action-packed calendar of events that is sure to excite the senses. Discover the spectacular **Hong Kong Flower Extravaganza** with its multitude of flower arrangements, stunning landscapes and special events. And why not top it all off with the **Mega Hong Kong Sale**, where there's always a bargain to find. **Hong Kong is it!**

The City in Bloom, 4–17 March 2002

- **Hong Kong the Blooming City.** A visual fiesta of exquisite floral displays and creations, displayed in hotel lobbies, major malls, parks and gardens. Including international floral master, Hans Haverkamp from AOC de Groene Welle in the Netherlands.
- **Hong Kong Flower Show** at Victoria Park, Causeway Bay. Amazing colours, floral arrangements and stunning landscape displays will add extra charm to Hong Kong's dramatic cityscape: 8–17 March.
- **City Escapes.** The Edward Youde Aviary and Forsgate Conservatory offer a rich display of birds and fauna—ideal places to relax in the heart of the city. Also explore the Mai Po Wetland, guided nature walks and other special activities.
- **Flavoursome Floral Teas and Feasts.** Treat the taste buds to flavour-filled dishes and relax by sampling famous floral teas like chrysanthemum, rose, cinnamon and jasmine at special tea shops.

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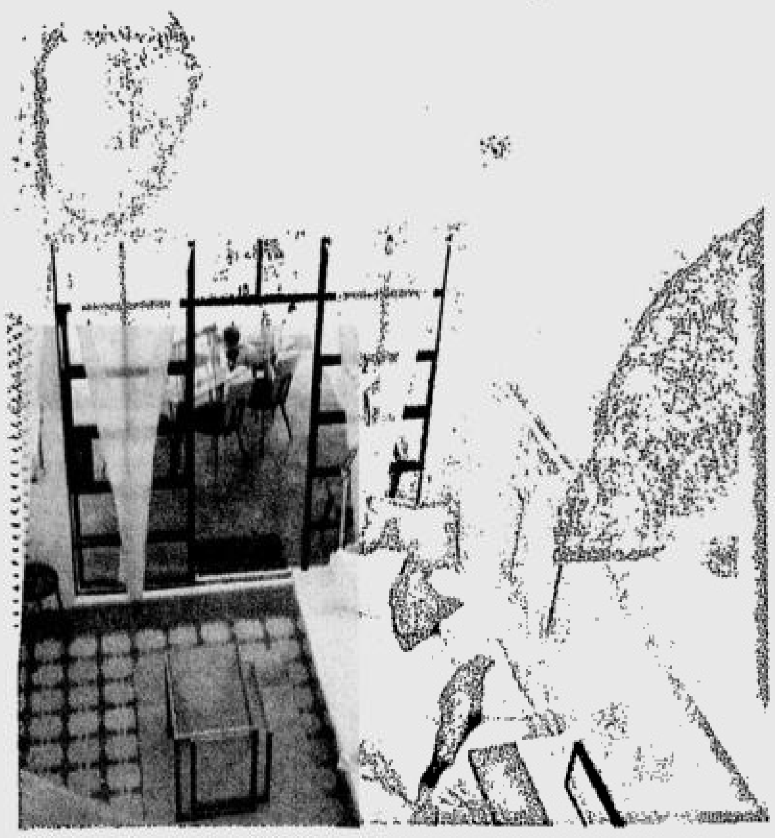
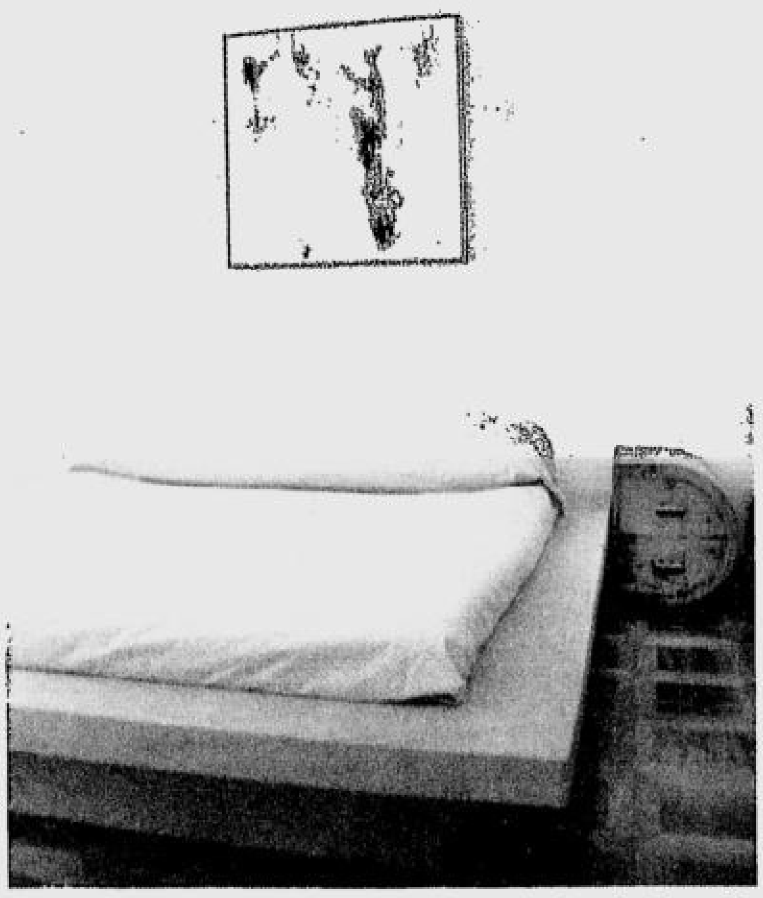


THE VIEW from atop the spiral staircase shows the length and breadth of the area's extended stairwell. A pair of window treatments made of a white, nonwoven material cover almost every steel-and-glass panel in the house.



VERY ZEN. A platform bed is softened by a pair of semi-oblong side drawers (half of the pair is beyond the camera's range). Bobby Nuestro's "Dambana" provides an apt statement.

THE V-SHAPED lighting fixture, backlit and shot from an angle showing another sitting area. Geometric lines continue to abound as reflected in the machuca tiles, grid dividers and Arturo Luz's white relief from his "Laminated" series.

An art gallery of a townhouse

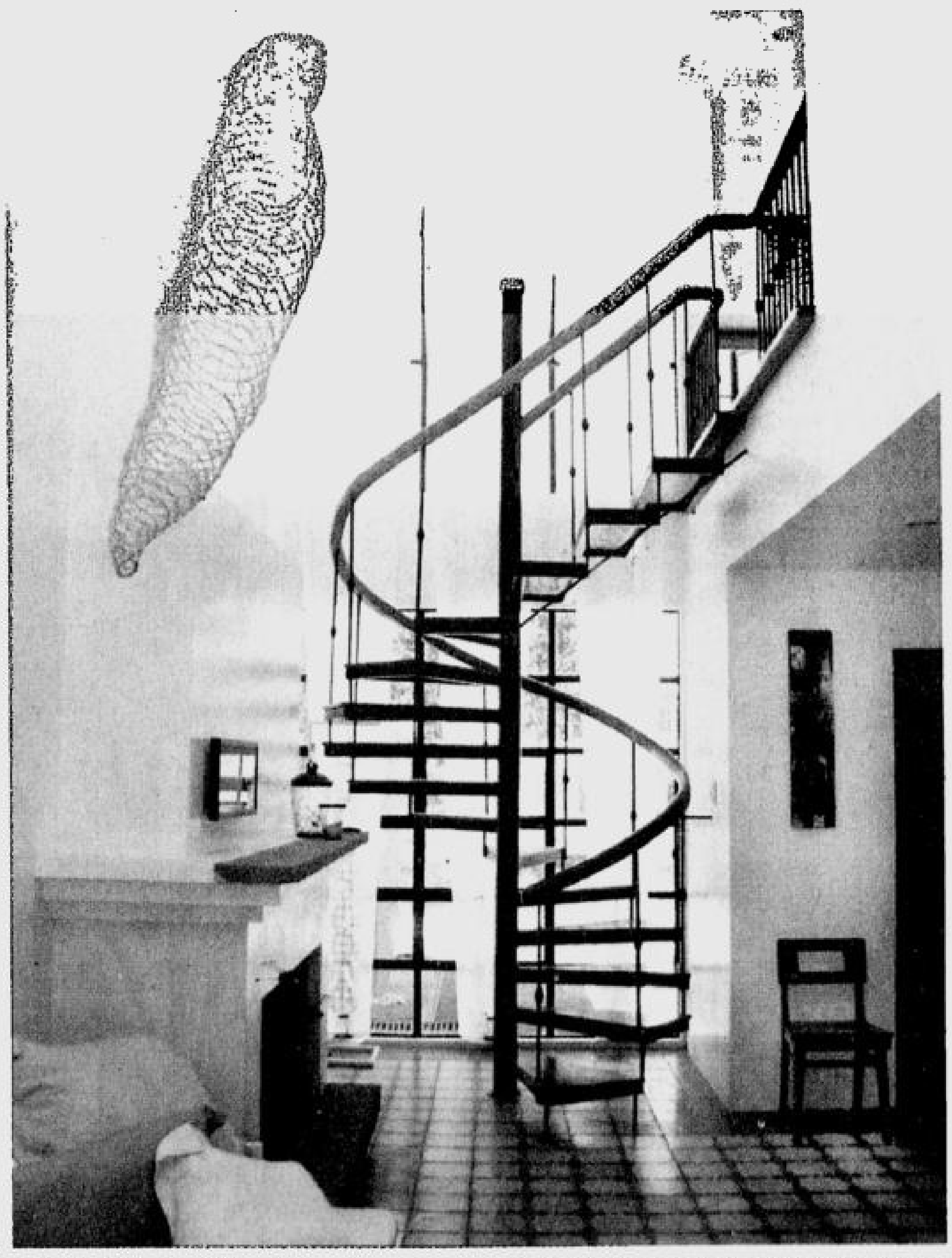
From page D1

An all-white family hideaway in Tagaytay has been recast as a showcase of contemporary art

AN ART/ p.D7

BARE ESSENTIALS. A framed full-length mirror, revarnished study chair and table, and mixed media work by Jarque occupy a corner of the master bedroom.

LESS IS MORE. F.B. Concepcion's "Fragment of Reality," a striking oil painting, is the focal point in a living room devoid of heavy furniture pieces. The V-shaped lighting fixture stresses the house's rigid geometric lines.



PILAPIL'S floating "Womb," made of wire and steamed rattan, and a spiral staircase soften an otherwise plain and rigid interior.

THE DINING set has been pushed to the patio to give way to a sitting area and give the Martinezes an al fresco feel come lunch and dinner. A mixed media work by Eugene Jarque hangs above the buffet table.

A PAIR of Doctolero's paintings from the "Panagbenga" series brightens up Carlo's bedroom. Two sofa beds in dark blue contrast with room's white walls.

An art gallery of a townhouse

From page D6

rial—the kind used to line collars and belts. George then gave the window treatment a twist by eschewing traditional curtain bands in favor of wooden clothespins.

A pair of skylight brightens up the area by the fireplace, while a V-shaped lighting fixture suspended several inches from the ceiling doubles as a diffuser and focal point that emphasizes the house's strong geometric lines—from the sharp divisions, grid dividers and hundreds of machuca tiles.

Albert later filled in another void. Impy Pilapil's "Womb," an elongated sculpture fashioned from wire and steamed rattan, now floats on the once bare wall, above the living room fireplace, that extends to the ceiling. A smaller, rounder Pilapil structure hangs above the grid dividing a sitting area from the dining area. The pieces, like the spiral staircase, succeed in softening the house's rigid lines.

"George had been reluctant at first when I showed him these pieces," Albert recalls, referring to Pilapil's cocoon-like sculptures. "But he soon became sold on the idea once he had seen them [sculpture] in place."

The spiral staircase by the fireplace leads to a second-floor walkway that features smaller pieces by Concepcion. Doctolero's festive "Panagbenga" oil series hangs by son Carlo's room, while Nuestro's monochromatic abstract titled "Dambana" lulls his parents to sleep in the master bedroom.

"Whenever I feel down," says George, "I just stare at a particular artwork until it eventually lifts my spirit."

Minimalism

Minimalism extends to the master bedroom. Furniture pieces are limited to a platform bed softened by a pair of semi-oblong side tables, a full-length mirror and a small, revarnished *narra* study table and chair that date back to George's grade school days. A mixed media painting by Jarque completes the Zen setup.

Aside from figuring out where to place the art pieces, however, George had to deal with sourcing the right furniture pieces to go with the house. What are friends for? Again, Albert proved to be heaven-sent. Because of budget constraints, going on an unlimited shopping spree was out of the question. Instead, they picked up old pieces from the Magallanes home and had them refurbished or stylized.

An old gray drawer mounted on a steel frame, for instance, had seen better days until they gave it a fresh coat of white paint. It now functions as a coffee table beside the barely-there black leatherette seats supported by stainless steel legs. Furniture pieces are decidedly compact and low-maintenance for aesthetic as well as practical reasons.

"We want to feel as relaxed as possible every time we come here," George says, "and you need plenty of space and as little clutter as possible to achieve that. Besides, we don't want to spend every minute of our spare time cleaning the house and moving heavy furniture to reach hidden corners." And guess what? George has done away with the pesky TV. Only a trusty CD player and a few books keep them company.

Albert's ingenuity is again evident in an aluminum-and-glass bookshelf he designed from discarded jalousie windows lying around Lao Lianben's home. He used the excess to fashion a pair of coffee tables that double as trays. "The artist was then having his house remodeled," Albert explains. "I asked him for these discarded materials without any clear idea what to do with them."

To make room for an additional sitting area, Albert pushed the dining set into the covered patio. Another of Jarque's mixed media pieces hang by the buffet table. George had the area fenced off from the outside by a concrete wall and iron grills just to play safe. A pocket garden littered with plain gravel and several potted plants complete the outdoor feel.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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UP CMCAA hosts career talk for graduates

GRADUATING seniors are invited to listen to eight alumni from the UP College of Mass Communication (UP CMC) who will give a sneak preview into the world of mass communications at the Second Career Talk Day on March 9, 8:30 a.m.-12 nn, at the UP CMC Auditorium in UP Diliman, QC.

Sponsored by the UP CMC Alumni Association (UP CMCAA), the half-day event aims to orient the graduates on what to expect as they join the real world of mass media. The speakers will give tips on how to survive the trade, and share their experiences and the challenges hurdled to make it to the top.

As an added attraction, a one-stop shop action center will be set up by the Social Security System together with Pag-Ibig Fund and Philippine Health Corp. at the UP CMC lobby for the new graduates. These booths, which will open at 8 a.m., will accept membership applications and answer queries as the new graduates enter the workforce. The general public may also avail of the hassle-free registration from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Only 100 seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 929-9618, 433-7895, (0918) 904-2415, (0917) 815-6952, (0917) 962-2947 or visit the UP CMC website at www.upd.edu.ph/~cmc.

GOINGS-ON

BRIDAL SHOW. Metro Weddings "I Do" recently hosted a dinner for top Filipino designers at the exclusive restaurant of ABS-CBN, 9501. The designers' works will be showcased in a fashion show at 7 p.m., March 9, at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, which will cap a three-day bridal fair presented by the Inter-Con and Metro Weddings "I Do." The fair, "All About Weddings," includes a museum-style exhibit of celebrity gowns at the hotel lobby, and off-the-rack bridal wear of Sari-Sari and grooms' attires (March 8). Call 815-9711 local 279.

ANNIVERSARY. The UP Institute of Library Science celebrates its 40th anniversary March 13-14, together with the UP Library Science Alumni Association and the UP Library and Information Science Students' Association. On March 13, an ILS Open House and book fair will be held 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Gonzalez Hall, UP Diliman. At 10 a.m., Dr. Alvin Marcelo will deliver the Gabriel A. Bernardo memorial lecture. At 8:30 a.m., March 14, the ILS IT applications laboratory will be inaugurated. A recognition program for the successful examinees of the 10th Licensure Examination for Librarians will be held at 9 a.m.

PUPPET SHOW. The Murray Raine Puppets is one of the largest puppet cabaret productions in Australia and Asia. Catch it today at the Ayala Center in Cebu (5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.), March 9 (3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.) and March 10 (11 a.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m); at the Alabang Town Center on March 15 (11 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.), March 16 (11 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.) and March 17 (11 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.); and at the Glorietta 4 Park, Ayala Center, Makati on March 22 (6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.), March 23 (4 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.) and March 24 (4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.).

PLAY. Dr. Howard Gardner is the man behind the philosophy of Multiple Intelligences. Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, is the man behind "The Cat in the Hat." Both were behind the success of Kinder Minds Learning Center. The center brings the children back onstage with "Seuss Goes Places!," which is inspired by the stories of Dr. Seuss. The play will be held on March 10 at the Abelardo Theater, UP College of Music, QC, 10 a.m.-12 nn. Kinder Minds Learning Center is at 64 Nicanor Ramirez St. corner D. Tuazon, QC. Call 415-9333 or 413-6996.

PROMO. Enchanted Kingdom introduces "Wizard Money Promo." Simply pay the P200 entrance fee and get back the amount in Wizard Money, which can be used to buy food, drinks, souvenir items, game stubs or tokens inside the park or to purchase admission tickets. Promo patrons will also get unlimited rides on the Grand Carousel plus a 5-percent discount on food and souvenir purchases using the Wizard Money during the promo period, which ends March 30. Call 830-2111.

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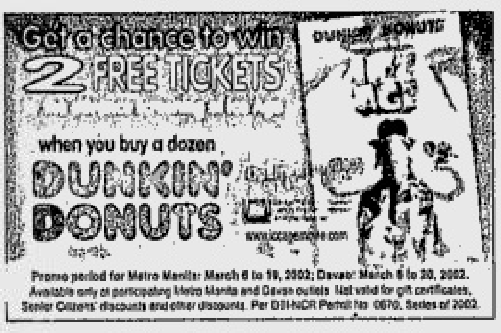
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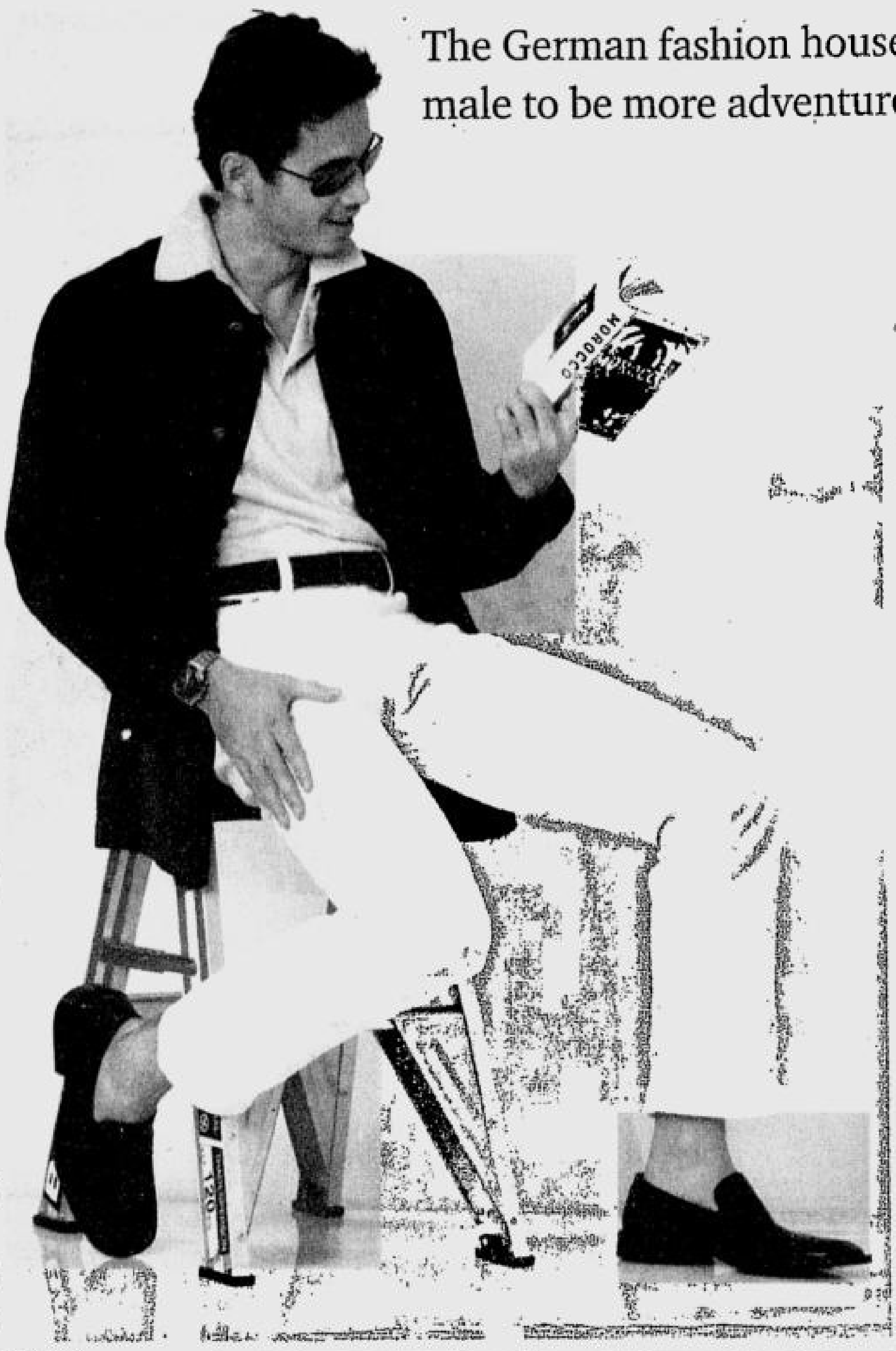
The Boss gets even bossier

The German fashion house is prodding the Filipino male to be more adventurous in his wardrobe

STORY ON PAGE E4



MODERN PLAYBOY GOES TO RIVIERA. Bernie Guinto wears a silver-buttoned denim jacket over a citrus polo shirt and white cotton jeans and loafers.

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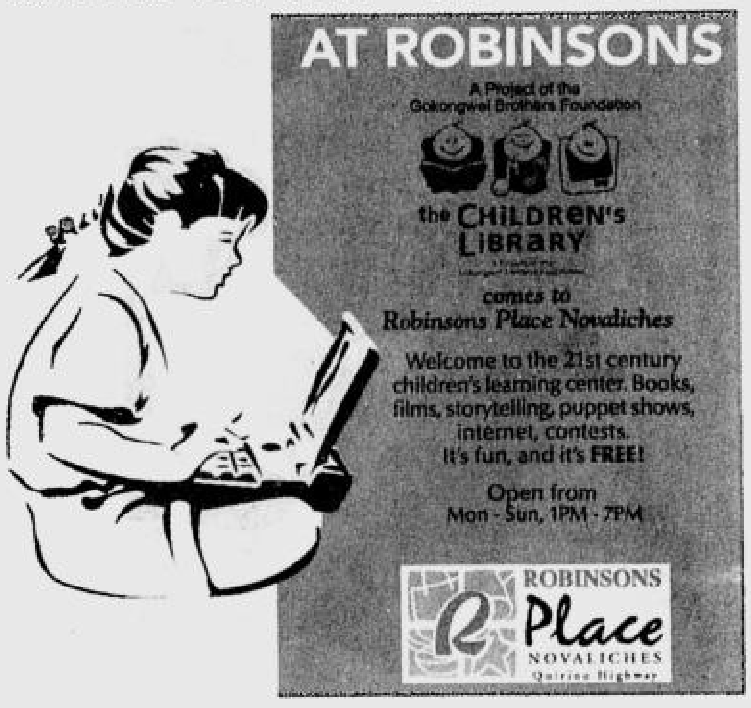
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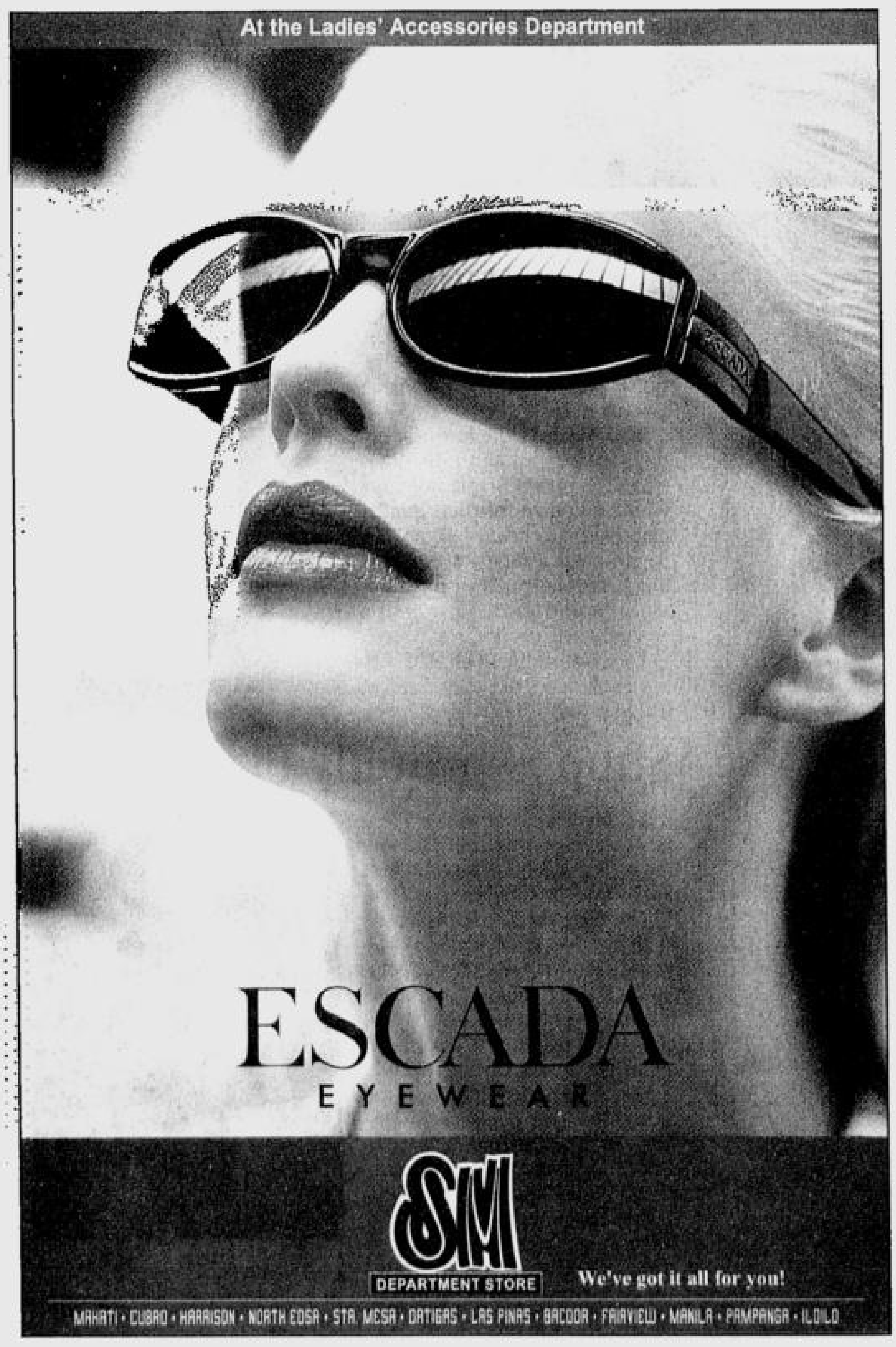
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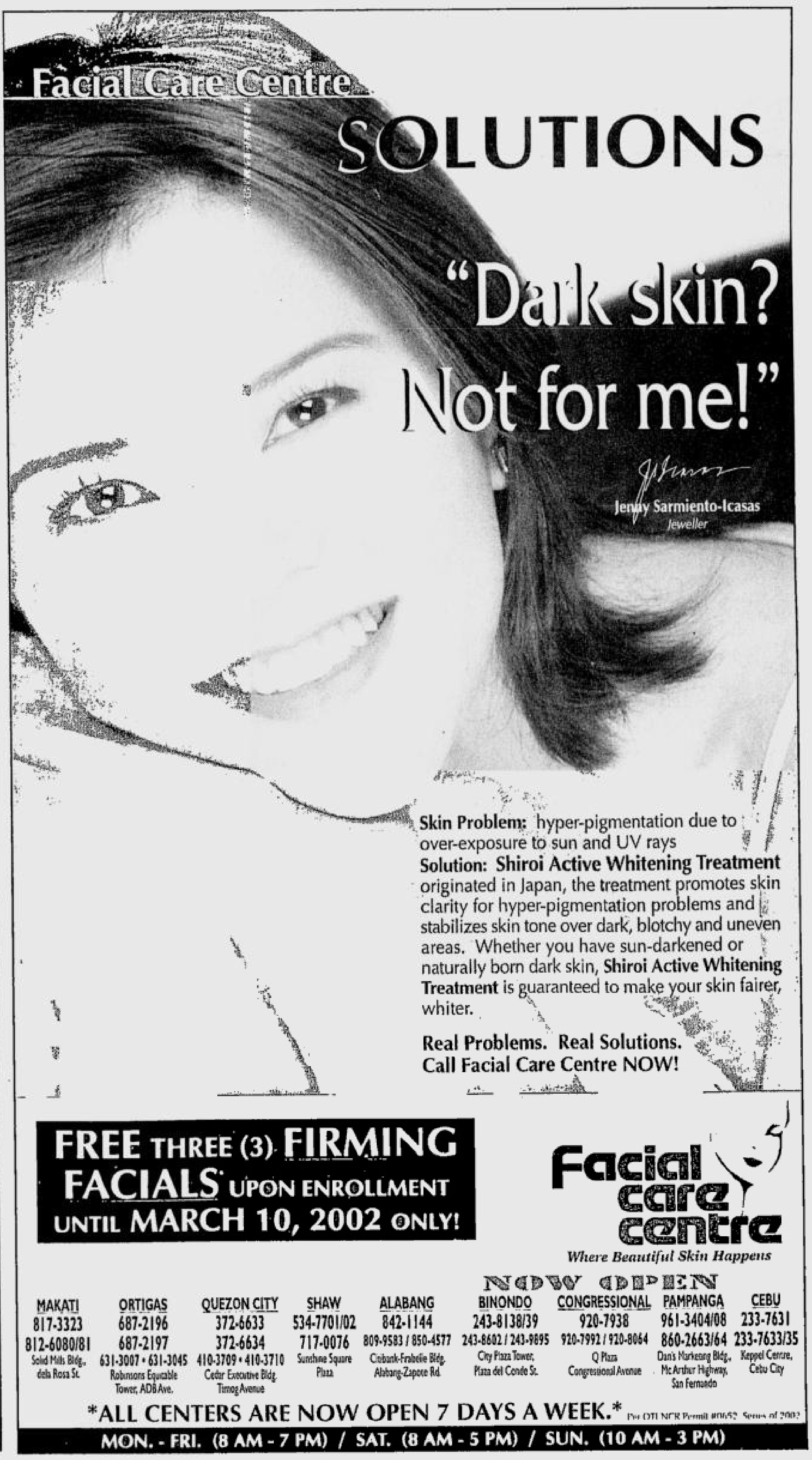
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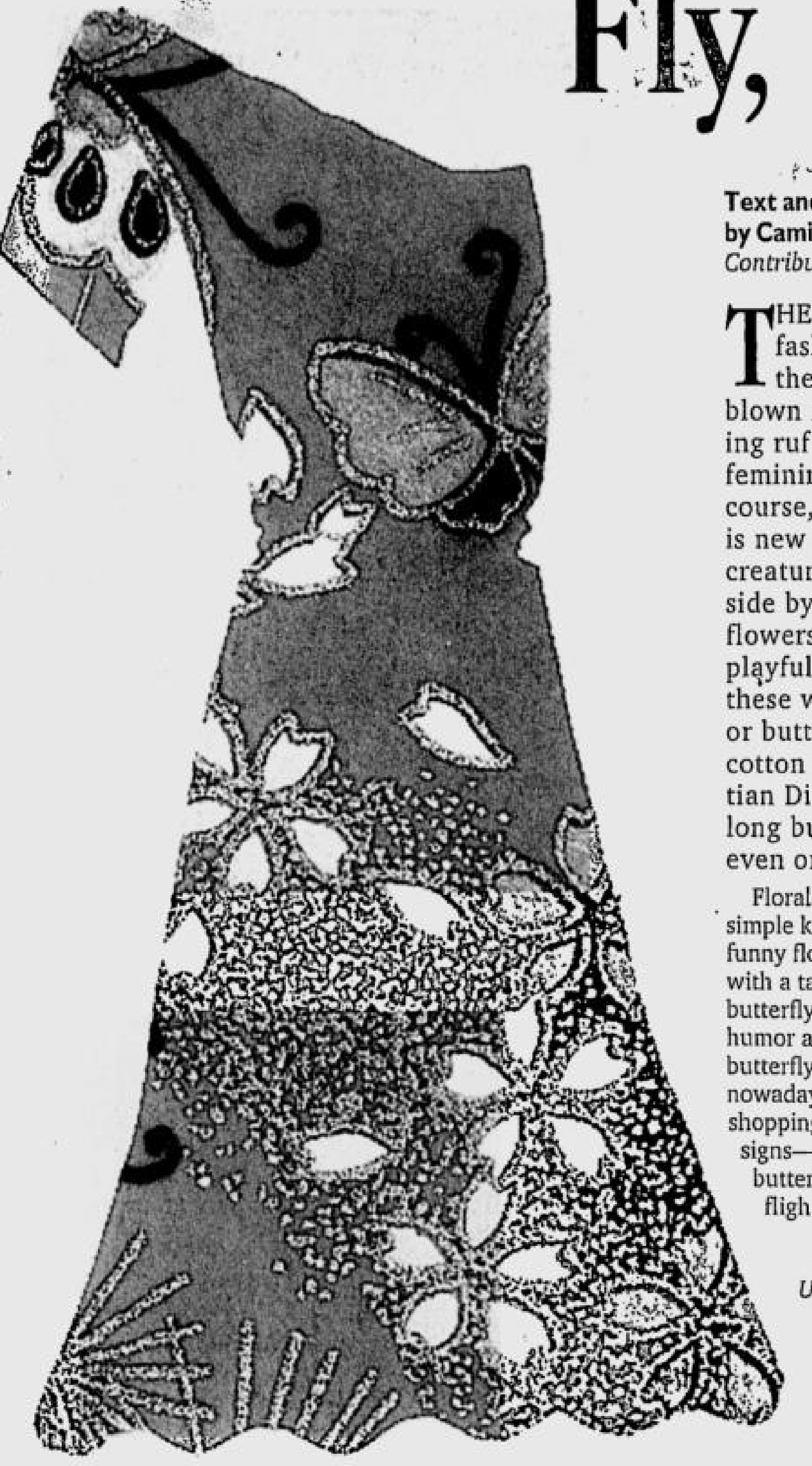


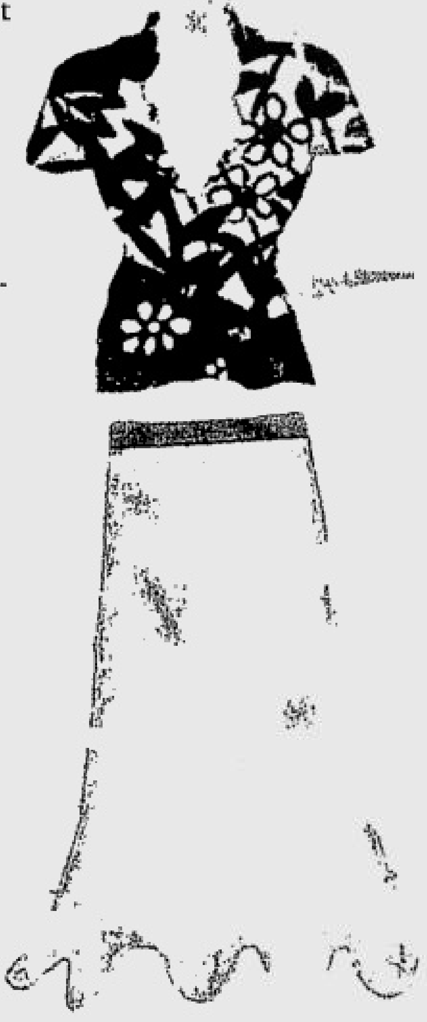
Text and cutouts by Camille Cruz-Reyes
Contributor

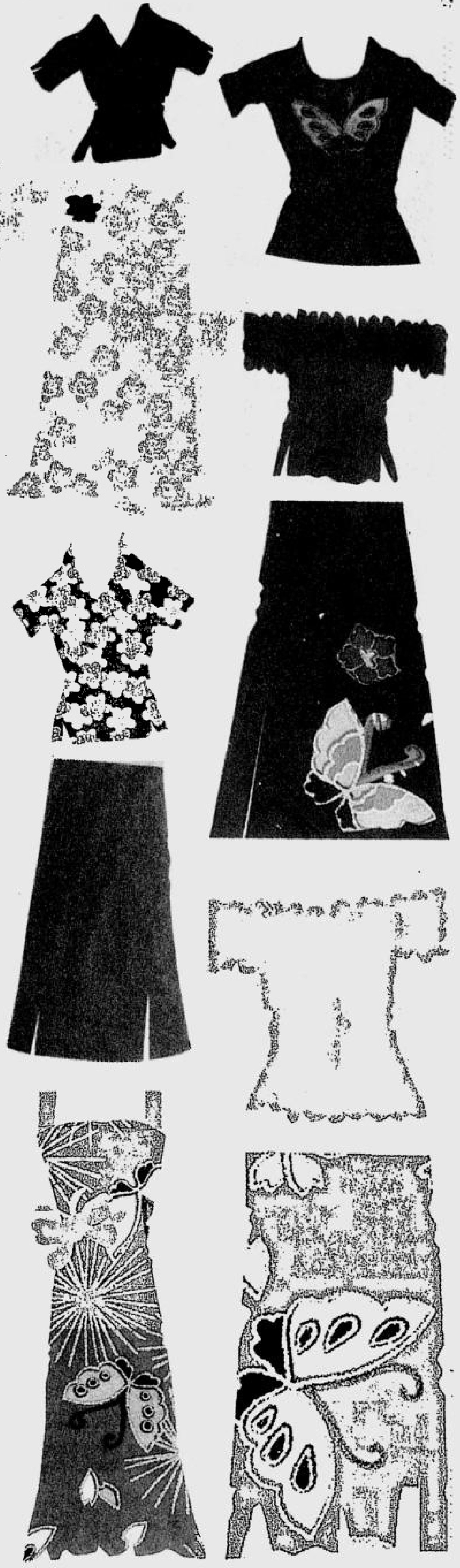
This summer, floral prints are complemented by winged creatures

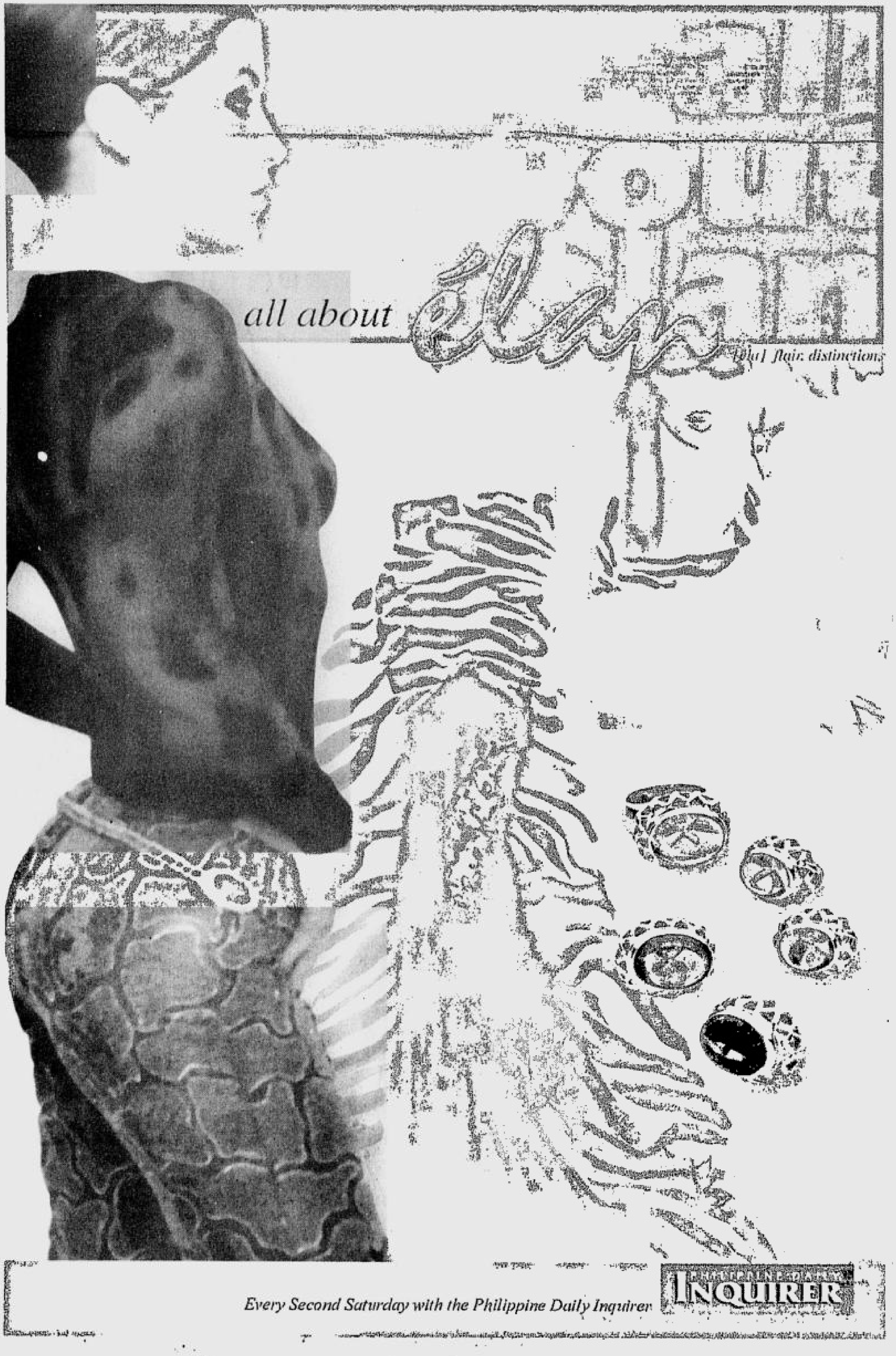
THE SOFT sense of fashion is evident these days with wind-blown floral prints replacing ruffles as symbols of femininity. These are, of course, nothing new. What is new is that winged creatures take their place side by side with delicate flowers, for a whimsical, playful feel. You can see these winged ones—birds or butterflies—in peasant cotton blouses, on a Christian Dior saddlebag, on long bustier dresses and even on fitted tees.

Florals connote humor. A simple knee-length skirt in a funny floral print can pair well with a tailored shirt. Bird and butterfly designs enhance the humor and the whimsy. The butterfly accent can be found nowadays on sandals and shopping tote bags. The designs—floral, feathered, or butterfly—help fashion take flight.

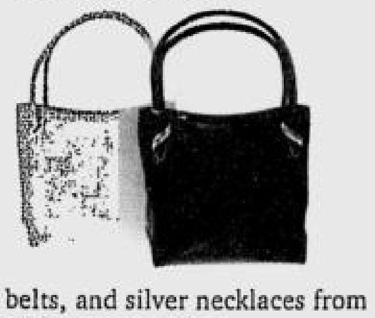
E-mail the author at Unit36D@vasia.com







Bags for every occasion



THE LINEA Italia Group (LIG) introduces this year a wide selection of bags to suit every woman's fashion need.

This includes the latest handbags, totes and shoulder bags from Genny and Sergio Soldano, who are known for their quality materials and classic designs. The bags come in a variety of colors — black, red, beige, rust, mustard, maroon and more to match a woman's every mood.

To complete the look, LIG also has a new accessory selection that includes colorful brooches, metal belts, and silver necklaces from Pinko, among others.

LIG's latest bag and accessory collection is available only at Linea Italia 6750, Prima Linea, Viva and Linea Italia Alabang, SM Megamall and Cebu.

Shop is proudly Pinoy

K & Company at the Power Plant in Rockwell Center has become the preferred label of women who appreciate the finer things in life.

The new shop, which stands side by side with some of the world's most popular designer labels, carries a Filipino brand. Its clothes are defined not by the country of origin, the designers, or the prices, but by the quality.

Fabric, cut, design and craftsmanship come together seamlessly in the garments.

K & Company designs are current, unique, and classic but not boring. Pashmina shawls, carabao horn bags with semiprecious stones, Swarovski crystal purses and handcrafted jewelry mix with gowns and dresses, suits and casual wear. The items can be worn in many ways and in many combinations.

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The Boss gets even bossier

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Patrick Uy
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS

MORE than a year ago, it was a challenge for a woman to select clothes for her man in specialty stores. The waist sizes of the pants started at 34 inches, the cut was straight and loose, and the colors were predictably boring.

When Jay Cu-Unjieng came in as Hugo Boss' brand manager, the shelves appealed to a younger market—fitted silhouettes, narrower pants, brighter colors. Despite the gloomy retail scenario, sales increased due to a wider clientele and the merchandise offered the customer more options.

MODEL:
BERNIE GUINTO,
CAL CARRIE'S
STYLING BY
JAY CU-UNJIENG
AND RAMON BILBAO
GROOMING:
ROCKY GIMENEZ
FOR COCOY SALON
CLOTHES, BELTS AND SHOES
BY HUGO BOSS
AT GLORIETTA 3
AND SHANGRI-LA PLAZA
WATCHES:
OMEGA

DANDY. This pastel-patterned Egyptian cotton shirt goes with the patterned brocade tie that enlivens the gray poplin suit. Wear with a black belt and ankle boots.

DEFY CONVENTIONS. This outfit breaks all the rules: A geometric-patterned shirt jacket in Egyptian cotton over a striped cotton T-shirt goes with the burgundy jeans. Match it with a two-toned belt and laced-up shoes. In Europe, when a young man carries a fan, he's using his feminine side to seduce women.

The selling points of the brand were the German precision, the 200-pattern pieces to make a jacket and the all-natural fibers for the shoulder pads.

Cu-Unjieng's initial impression is that the Filipino male, although vain, has gotten stuck to a uniform look. He wants to follow the pack instead of go against it. Few are adventurous enough to try a shirt or accessory that's out of their usual wardrobe of black, brown and blue. But through mass media, the Filipino is getting more exposed to what is stylish and what is boring.

Cu-Unjieng has been playing Santa to the customer's wish list starting with stocking up on pants whose waists start at 30 or the German size 46. That has made a lot of difference to young customers who do their ab workouts in the gym. The neckties are more colorful and played up with patterns as opposed to the conventional stripes or regimental look. Some ties are done in brocade in such colors as dusty rose, pink, light green and yellow. What was once dismissed as sissy is now seen as *savoir faire.*

Cu-Unjieng had wanted to be a designer. However, the technicalities of construction and sewing were too complicated for Cu-Unjieng that he ended up in retail.

After finishing his studies at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles, he worked at Mark Cross and First Belissimmo. When he returned to Manila, he took up business management at De La Salle's College of St. Benilde. A family friend, Victoria Egan, one of the owners of Igedo, hired him to run the Hugo Boss stores.

Core customers

Hugo Boss has its core customers who purchased business attire, formals and jeans. The core customer profile consists of people from politics, entertainment, executives and expatriates.

It's common knowledge that actor Cesar Montano wears Hugo Boss, especially during film awards nights. Other customers are presidential son and Pampanga Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo and Sen. Ralph Recto.

Lately the market profile has expanded to include professionals from the design, media and advertising fields. The market has gotten younger and during the first quarter of the year, many teenagers bought their first suits from Hugo Boss.

The Montgomery Clift is a popular formal wear. Inspired by the look of the great Hollywood matinee idol of the '50s, the outfit consisted of tuxedo satin-trimmed for a retro feel along with flat-front pants with a satin band instead of the cummerbund and a low waistline.

Other favorites for formals are the blue and black suits and the three-button jacket worn with shirts and ties with metallic threads.

Cu-Unjieng says Filipinos are beginning to be more open to new styles. Shirts that are cut on the bias, which is unusual for the German brand, have been moving on the racks despite the steep price of P10,000. Last season, men made a rush for the silver tie, which was considered the "new formal." The silver tie is a ubiquitous accessory in weddings.

Black ties with metallic threads also sold well with the tuxedos.

Cu-Unjieng says the Filipino has yet to appreciate the pattern-on-pattern look, that is, mixing a checkered shirt with a striped or dotted tie. The rule to combining is basic: pick up a color from the shirt to match that of the tie. He also adds that Filipinos should consider suits in patterns such as checkers or plaids. Last season, Hugo Boss had a black suit with subtle pinstripes.

Filipinos should also try brown suits.

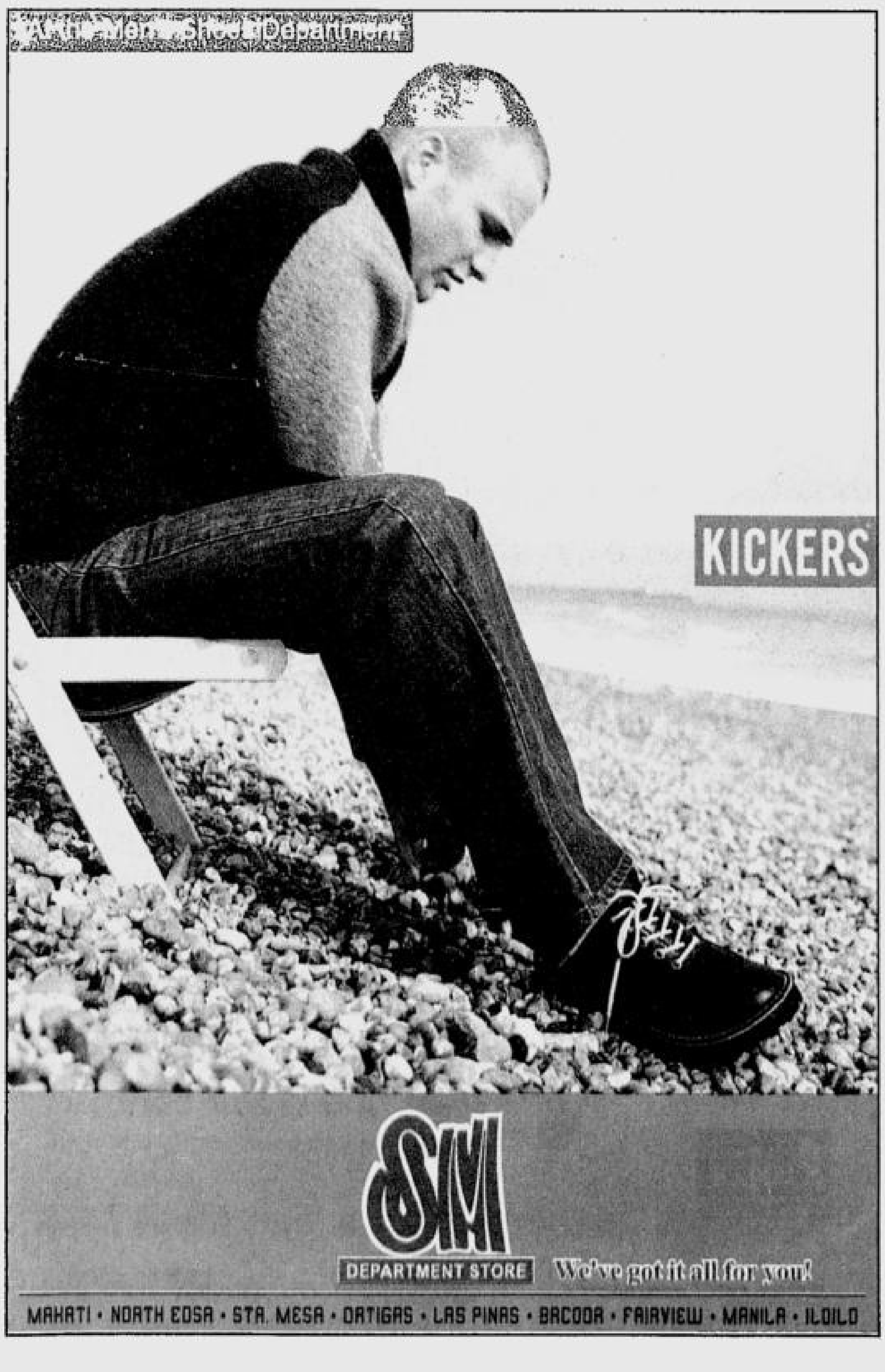
"Brown looks just as smart as black," he says.

He encourages men to wear brighter colors, even citrus yellow and green. Expect shirts in sorbet colors, abstract patterned polos in lavender and pale indigos.

"When you have brighter colors reflecting on your face, these will give you a better glow. I think women are attracted to color. They will understand."

GRAY and taupe jacket over a lycra polo shirt and taupe tropical wool slacks, waisted in black leather. They go with rubber-soled lace-ups.

CLASSIC. A white T-shirt worn under light blue-gray jersey pullover and black seersucker trousers with platinum-toned buckled shoes may be worn in places where the air-conditioning system is on full blast. Wear it on the plane on a long-haul flight and arrive in nonchalant style.



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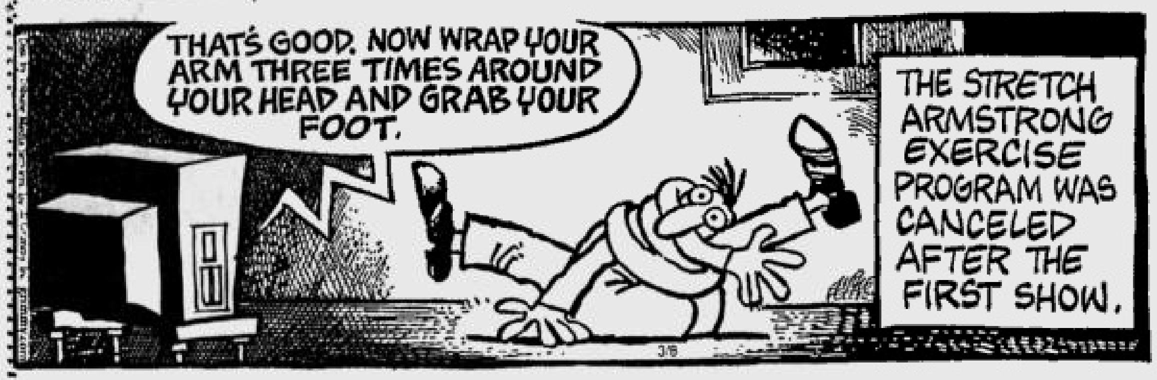
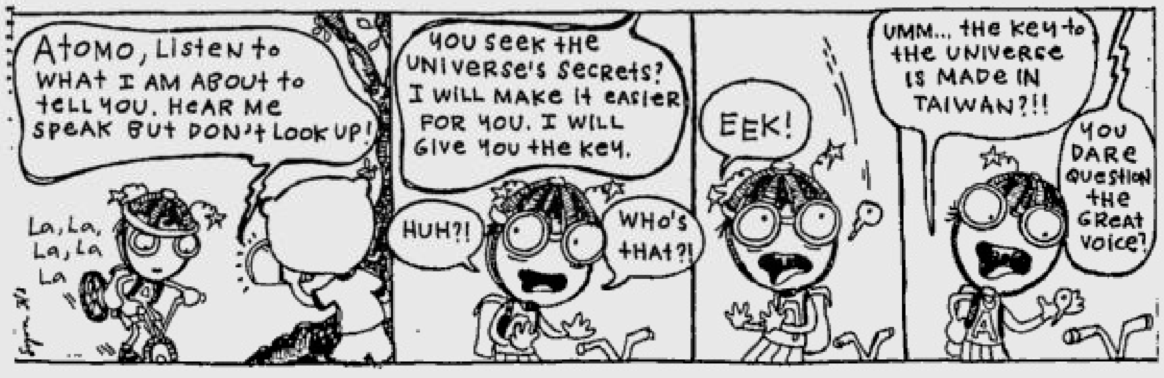
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


THAT'S GOOD. NOW WRAP YOUR ARM THREE TIMES AROUND YOUR HEAD AND GRAB YOUR FOOT.
THE STRETCH ARMSTRONG EXERCISE PROGRAM WAS CANCELED AFTER THE FIRST SHOW.
3/8

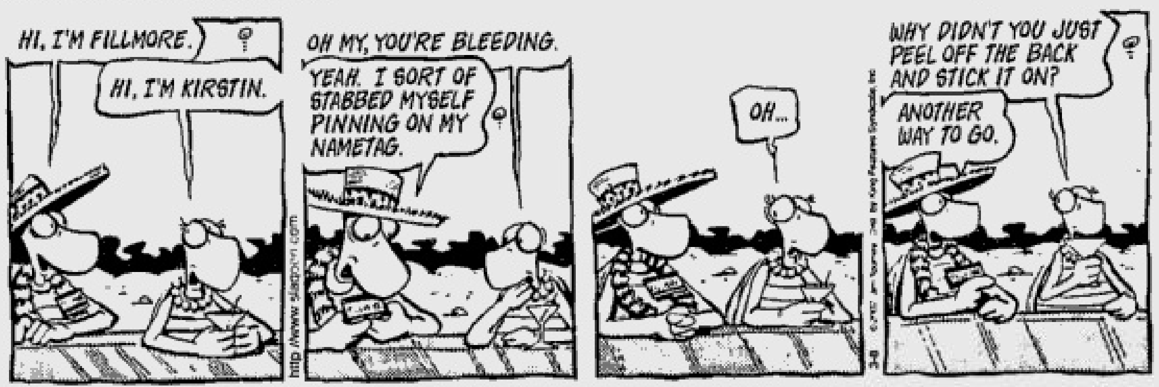
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Atomo, Listen to WHAT I AM ABOUT to tell you. HEAR ME SPEAK BUT DON'T LOOK UP!
La, La, La, La La
YOU seek the UNIVERSE'S SECRETS? I WILL MAKE it easier FOR YOU. I WILL Give you the key.
HUH?!
WHO's that?!
EEK!
UMM... the key to the UNIVERSE IS MADE IN TAIWAN?!!
YOU DARE question the GREAT voice?

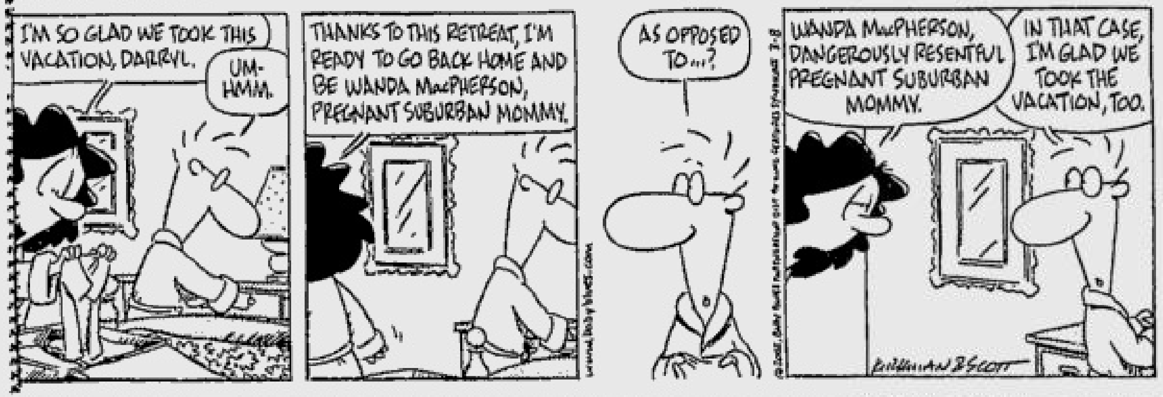
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HI, I'M FILLMORE.
HI, I'M KIRSTIN.
OH MY, YOU'RE BLEEDING.
YEAH. I SORT OF STABBED MYSELF PINNING ON MY NAMETAG.
OH...
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST PEEL OFF THE BACK AND STICK IT ON?
ANOTHER WAY TO GO.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M SO GLAD WE TOOK THIS VACATION, DARRYL.
UM-HMM.
THANKS TO THIS RETREAT, I'M READY TO GO BACK HOME AND BE WANDA MacPHERSON, PREGNANT SUBURBAN MOMMY.
AS OPPOSED TO...?
WANDA MacPHERSON, DANGEROUSLY RESENTFUL PREGNANT SUBURBAN MOMMY.
IN THAT CASE, I'M GLAD WE TOOK THE VACATION, TOO.
www.babyblues.com
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bob Moffatt, Freddie Prinze Jr., Lynn Redgrave, Cyd Charisse

Happy Birthday: You'll have an instinctive knowledge about future trends this year. You can do well investing in art objects or in items that have the potential to grow in value. You will have the opportunity to get involved in joint financial deals but don't feel obligated to put your cash on the line. Your numbers are 2, 16, 25, 28, 32, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't get emotional about something happening at work. If you are professional and do your job to the best of your ability you will get ahead.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You've been on the go for some time now and you should be giving yourself the day off just to do the things that you enjoy doing. A little time to catch up on reading or tuning into the radio will make your day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may be tempted to get involved in a moneymaking scheme. If you decide to go that route be sure to go it alone. Joint ventures are not likely to pay off.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your feelings will be close to the surface today. Develop an open relationship with someone you care about; talk about the way you really feel.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put in a hard day's work and you will feel good about yourself and your accomplishments. A serious minded group will be more entertaining than you anticipate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Social events will be entertaining and exciting. You are likely to meet someone interesting but don't move too fast. Find out all you can before you decide to become close.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you haven't been getting along well with someone at home go straight out with friends today. You will have an imaginative mind and some creative ideas today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You should be entertaining the thought of going on a trip. Check out cultural events in your community if you don't get the chance to travel. You will have a greater interest in finding new ways to do things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be considering changing your professional direction. Take a look into your options. Don't limit yourself because someone is against you making changes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be a little confused regarding your personal life. Try not to let things get to you. If you back up a few steps you will have a much clearer picture.

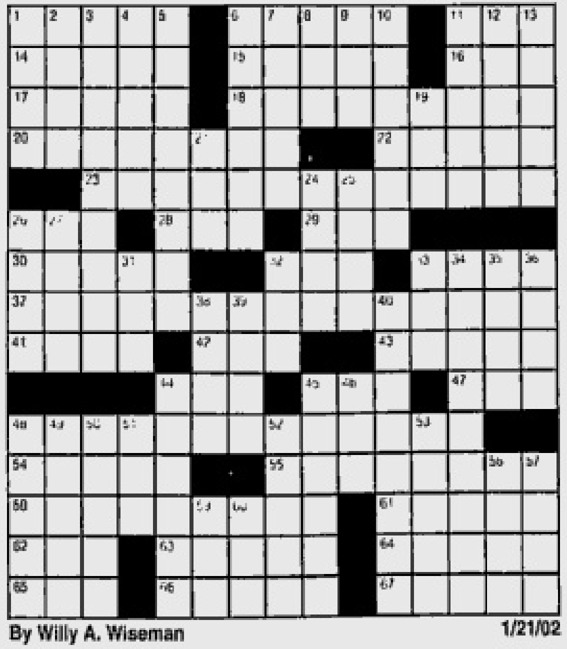
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will have to be discreet about what it is you are doing. Being secretive today will enable you to follow through with your plans with fewer obstacles.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can persuade others to take part in something that you believe in. The possibilities are endless if you are determined and dedicated to your cause.

Birthday Baby: You are a born leader who has the courage to undertake ventures that most would shy away from. You are also impulsive, extravagant and a little careless. You are always willing to take a chance.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Willy A. Wiseman
New York, NY

1/21/02

ACROSS
1 Period
6 Burns slightly
11 Bullring shout
14 "Casablanca" co-star
15 Kindled again
16 Assam or hyson
17 Theater sections
18 Start of a Martin Luther King Jr. quote
20 Superlatively questionable
22 "Still Me" writer
23 Part 2 of quote
26 J.H.S. subject
28 Promos
29 __ Dawn Chong
30 Mary Kate or Ashley
32 Hep dude
33 Islamic prayer leader
37 Part 3 of quote
41 Basilica area
42 Massachusetts cape
43 "How I Learned To Drive" playwright Paula
44 Pen name?
45 Depression era agcy.
47 "__ Haw"
48 Part 4 of quote
54 Track shapes
55 Main roads
58 End of quote
61 Cubic meter
62 Payment
63 2000 candidate Ralph
64 __ del Sol
65 Lat. or Lith., once
66 Zurich folk
67 Come in!

DOWN
1 Pipe bends
2 Fiddlesticks!
3 Life forms
4 Belief
5 Irresolute
6 Turning point
7 Judges weight by lifting
8 Miss. neighbor
9 Periphery
10 Be very hungry
11 Different one
12 Get going
13 Facilitated
19 Maiden name lead-in
21 Hall of Leno's show
24 Projecting rock
25 Word of honor
26 Cub Sammy
27 Hoofbeat
31 Shoe-box letters
32 T. Turner channel
33 __ Jima
34 Most awesome
35 Toward shelter
36 Srta. of Paris
38 Whisker
39 Short distance
40 Dissipate like vapor
44 Photons and pions
45 Electricians, at times
46 Hrs. in Seattle
48 Takes off
49 Climbing vines
50 "Peter, Peter, pumpkin __..."
51 Airplane ride: abbr.
52 Roof overhang
53 "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" playwright
56 Russian-born illustrator
57 Scorch
59 Jurisprudence
60 Uganda's Amin

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

H	O	G	A	N	■	S	I	R	E	■	B	E	D	E
A	C	U	T	E	■	M	A	I	L	B	O	X	E	S
T	U	R	O	W	■	U	N	D	E	R	A	C	T	S
C	L	U	M	S	Y	■	■	■	G	A	Z	E	R	■
H	I	S	■	R	E	D	F	L	A	G	■	L	A	C
■	■	■	Y	E	A	R	L	O	N	G	■	S	C	H
B	R	A	V	E	H	E	A	R	T	■	C	I	T	E
L	I	B	E	L	■	A	P	E	■	S	L	O	E	S
A	N	A	S	■	E	M	P	T	Y	W	O	R	D	S
I	G	N	■	T	R	E	E	T	O	A	D	■	■	■
R	A	D	■	W	A	R	R	A	N	T	■	T	I	S
■	B	O	R	I	S	■	■	■	D	H	A	R	M	A
T	E	N	A	C	I	O	U	S	■	I	S	A	A	C
E	L	E	M	E	N	T	A	L	■	N	E	I	G	H
A	L	D	A	■	G	O	E	R	■	G	A	T	E	S

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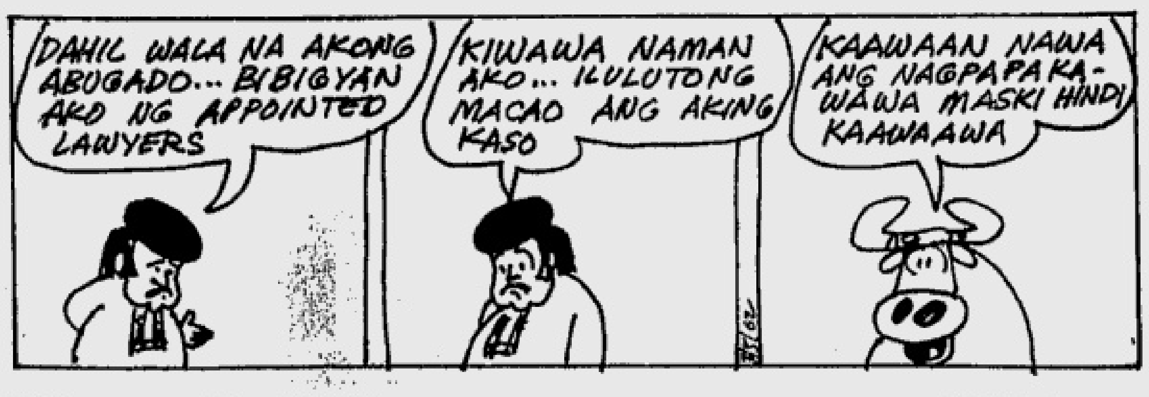
1/21/02

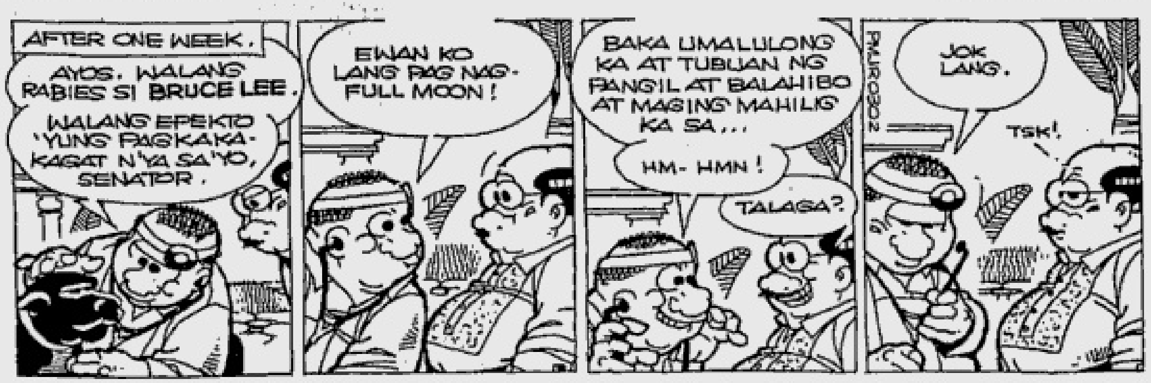
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAHIL WALA NA AKONG ABUGADO... BIBIGYAN AKO NG APPOINTED LAWYERS
KIWAWA NAMAN AKO... ILULUTONG MACAO ANG AKING KASO
KAAWAAN NAWA ANG NAGPAPAKA-WAWA MASKI HINDI KAAWAAWA

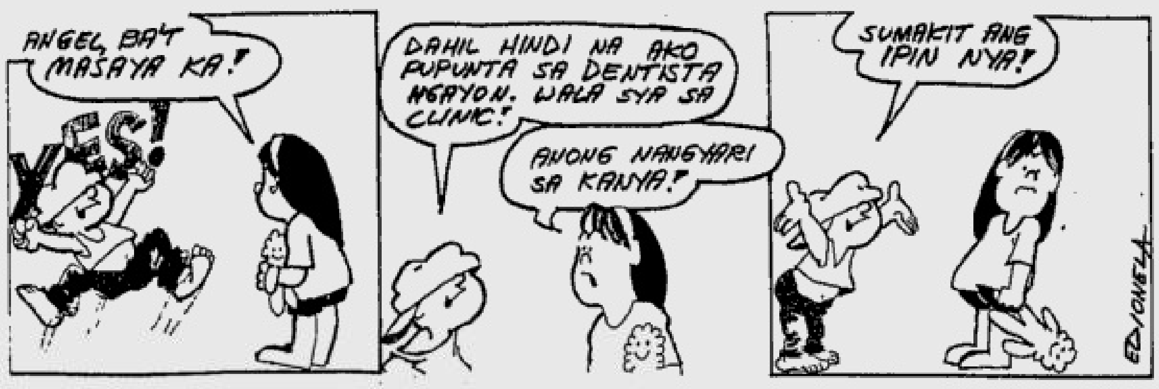
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AFTER ONE WEEK.
AYOS. WALANG RABIES SI BRUCE LEE.
WALANG EPEKTO 'YUNG PAGKAKA-KAGAT N'YA SA'YO, SENATOR.
EWAN KO LANG PAG NAG-FULL MOON!
BAKA UMALULONG KA AT TUBUAN NG PANGIL AT BALAHIBO AT MAGING MAHILIG KA SA...
HM- HMN!
TALAGA?
JOK LANG.
TSK!

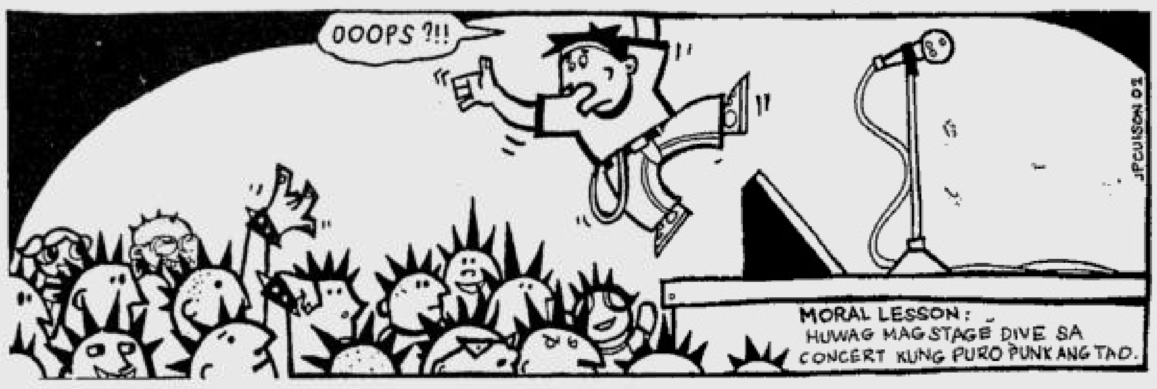
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL, BA'T MASAYA KA!
YES!
DAHIL HINDI NA AKO PUPUNTA SA DENTISTA NGAYON. WALA SYA SA CLINIC!
ANONG NANGYARI SA KANYA!
SUMAKIT ANG IPIN NYA!
EDIONELA

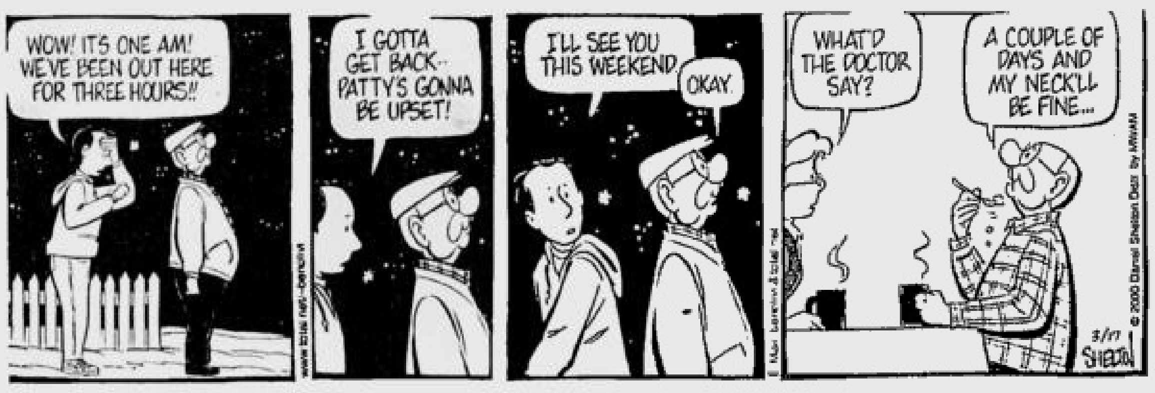
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


OOOPS ?!!
MORAL LESSON:
HUWAG MAG STAGE DIVE SA CONCERT KUNG PURO PUNK ANG TAO.
JPCUISON 02

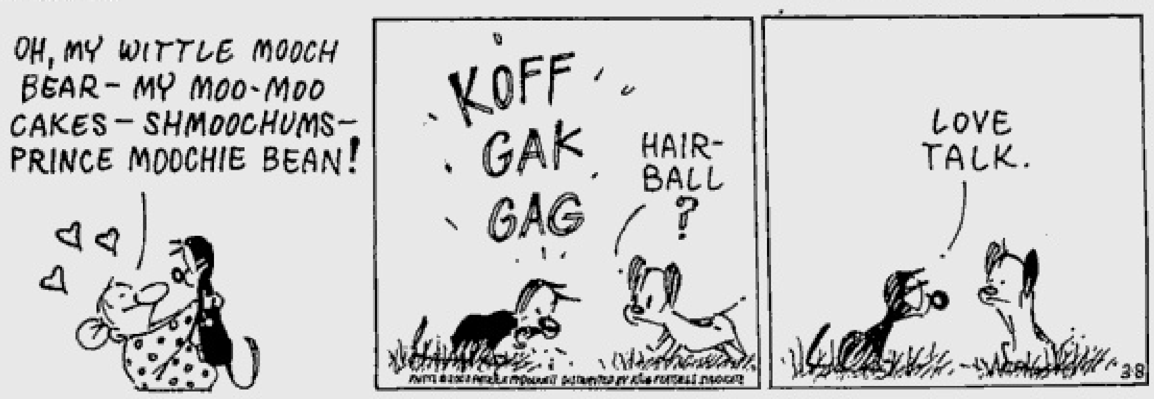
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WOW! IT'S ONE AM! WE'VE BEEN OUT HERE FOR THREE HOURS!!
I GOTTA GET BACK. PATTY'S GONNA BE UPSET!
I'LL SEE YOU THIS WEEKEND.
OKAY.
WHAT'D THE DOCTOR SAY?
A COUPLE OF DAYS AND MY NECK'LL BE FINE...
SHELTON

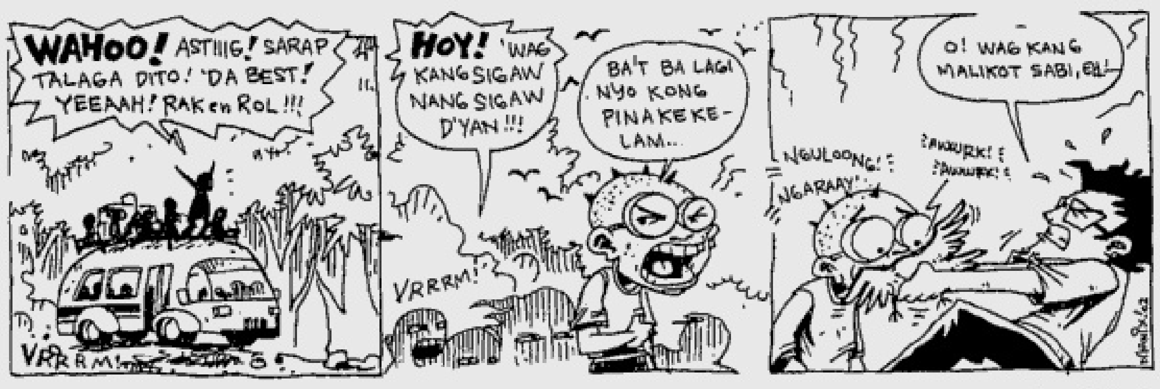
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, MY WITTLE MOOCH BEAR- MY MOO-MOO CAKES- SHMOOCHUMS- PRINCE MOOCHIE BEAN!
KOFF GAK GAG
HAIR-BALL ?
LOVE TALK.
3-8

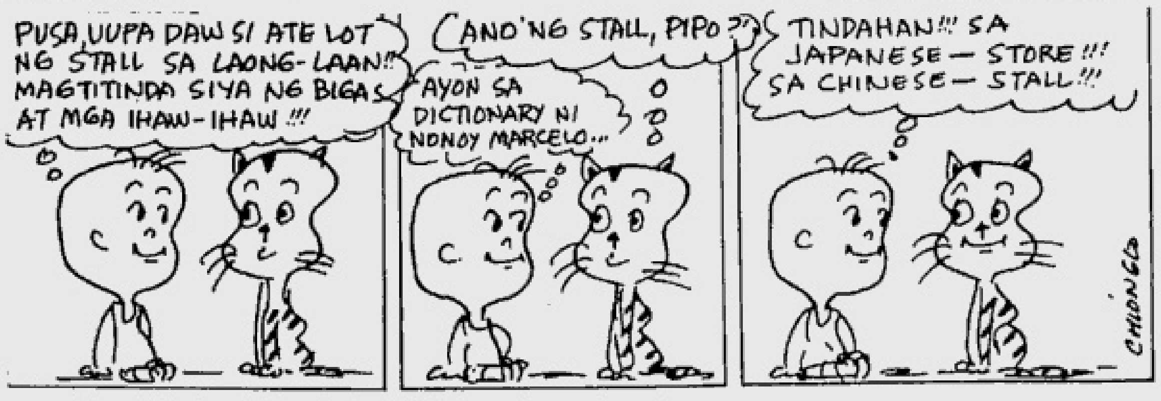
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


WAHOO! ASTIIIG! SARAP TALAGA DITO! 'DA BEST! YEEAAH! RAK en ROL!!!
VRRRM!
HOY! 'WAG KANG SIGAW NANG SIGAW D'YAN!!!
BA'T BA LAGI NYO KONG PINAKEKE-LAM...
VRRRM!
O! WAG KANG MALIKOT SABI, EH!
NGULOONG!
NGARAAY!
AWURK!
AWURK!

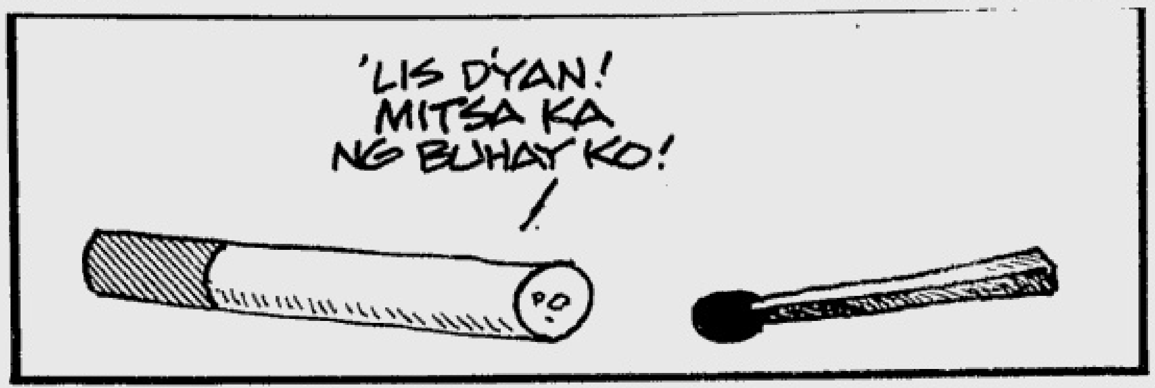
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, UUPA DAW SI ATE LOT NG STALL SA LAONG-LAAN!! MAGTITINDA SIYA NG BIGAS AT MGA IHAW-IHAW!!!
ANO'NG STALL, PIPO??
AYON SA DICTIONARY NI NONOY MARCELO...
TINDAHAN!!! SA JAPANESE — STORE!!! SA CHINESE — STALL!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'LIS D'YAN! MITSA KA NG BUHAY KO!

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Without a doubt, it's better than cash.

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  Simply use your AIG Gold Card and make a single or accumulated purchase of P3,000 within the first month from date of activation to get your FREE TRAVEL BAG!
- 1.6% Installment Rate Promo
  Apply now and readily avail of as low as 1.6% monthly interest rate when you transfer the balance from other credit cards to your AIG Credit Card. Availment of Balance Transfer Promo is subject to the approval of the AIG Credit Card application.

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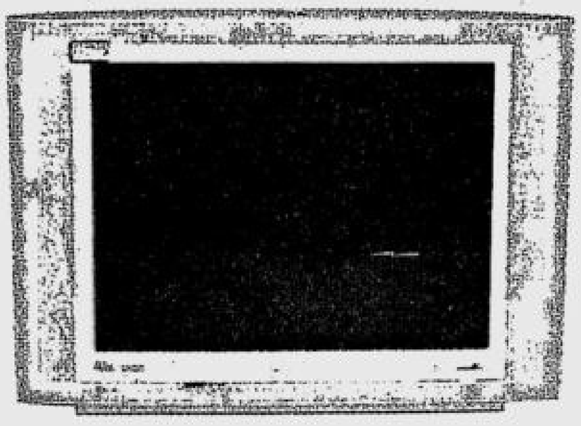
PHIL-AM PROPERTIES — Property Development
AIG Credit Card Company Philippines, Inc. — Credit Cards

Clearance Sale



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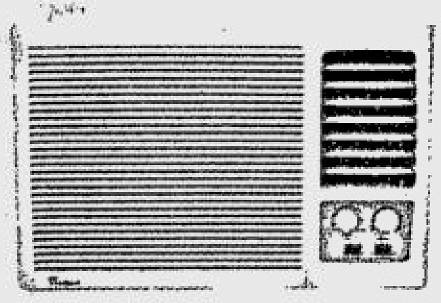
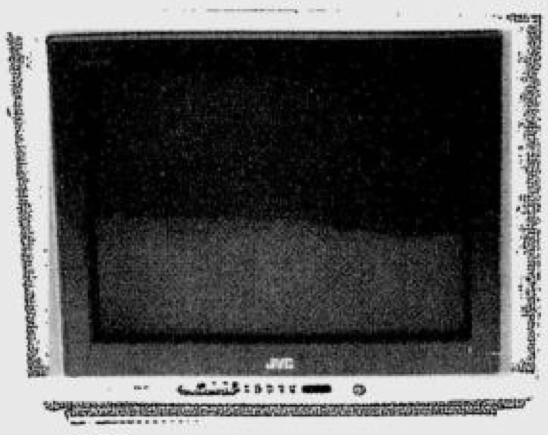
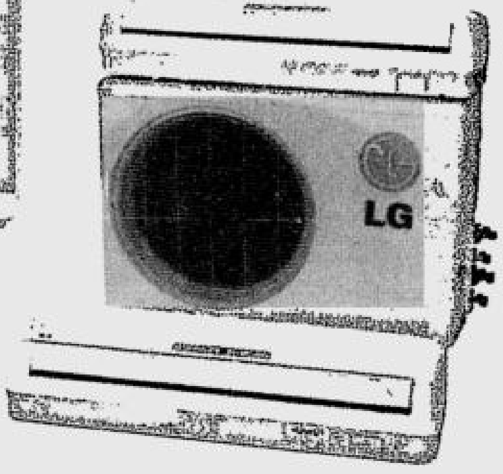
FTV 29" Multi
Lowest price ever
Only $745



WHIRLPOOL 0.75HP
Airconditioner
Lowest price ever
Only $214

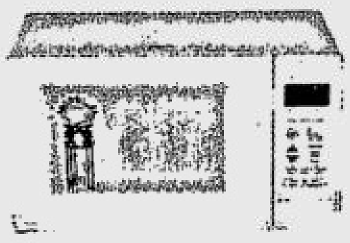


JVC
FTV 29" Multi
Lowest price ever
Only $599



LG Multi-split
Airconditioner
Lowest price ever
Only $866

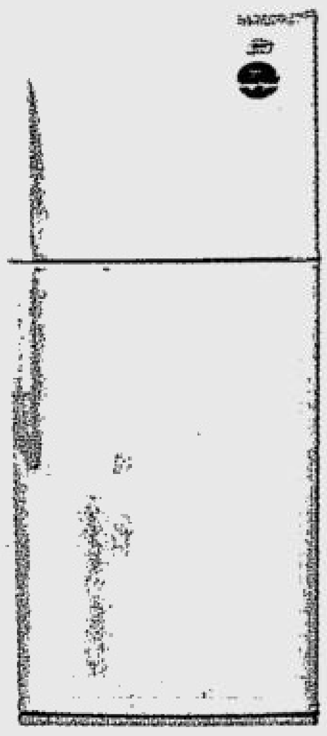
JVC
FTV 25" Multi
Lowest price ever
Only $399



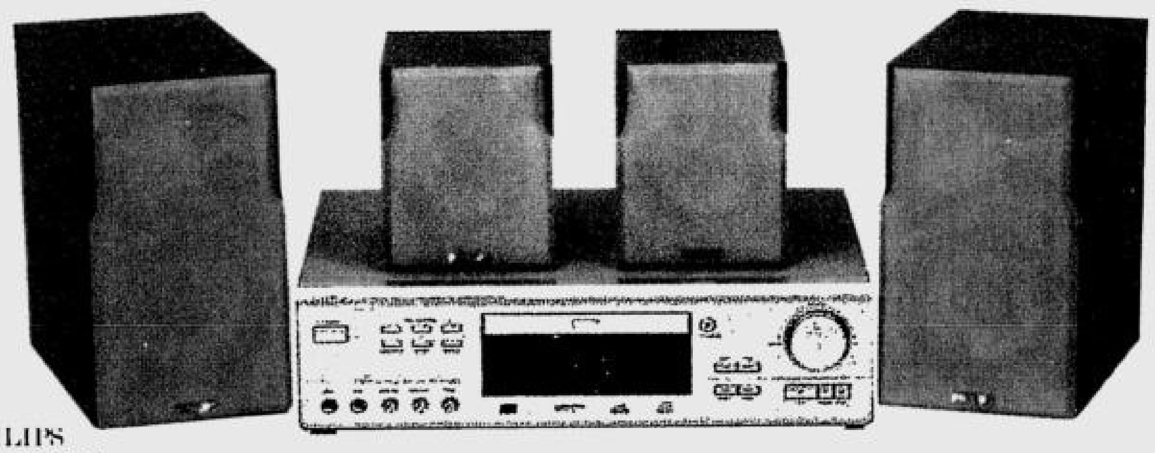
AMERICAN HOME
Microwave Oven
Lowest price ever
Only $105

JVC
DVD Player
Lowest price ever
Only $199

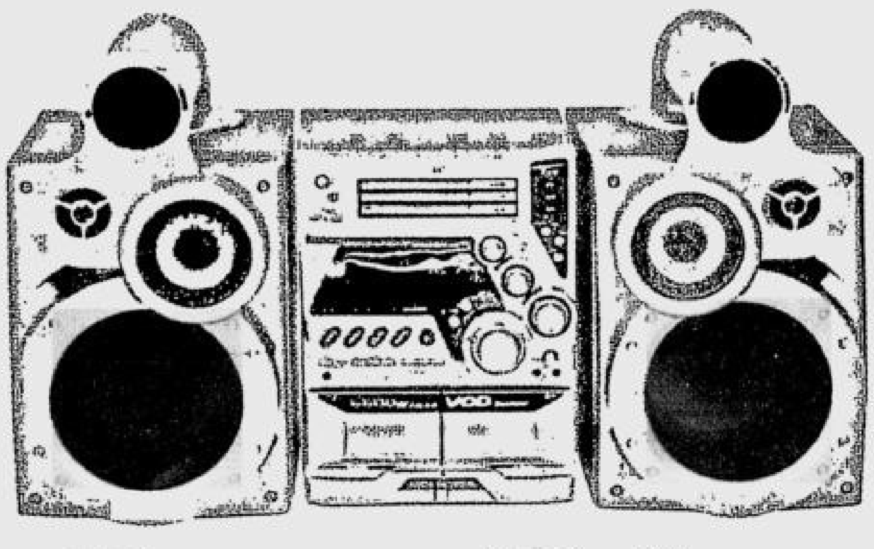
MAYTAG
21 cu ft. Refrigerator
Lowest price ever
Only $999



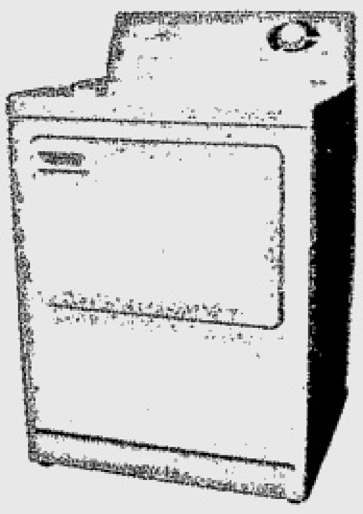
LG
Refrigerator GR-482
Lowest price ever
Only $469



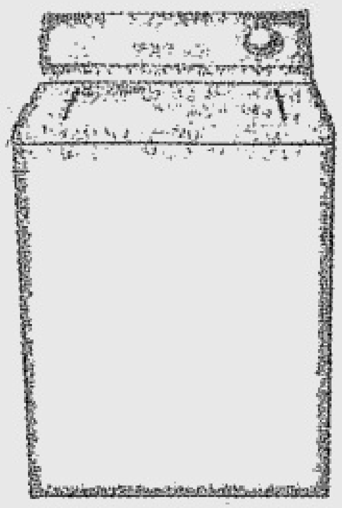
PHILIPS
VCD AMP Player
Lowest price ever
Only $185



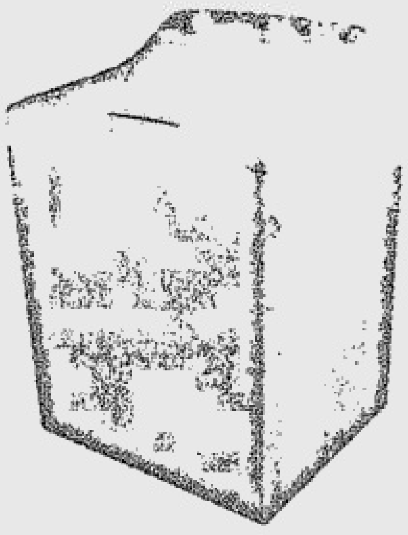
JVC
VCD Mini Compo
Lowest price ever
Only $299



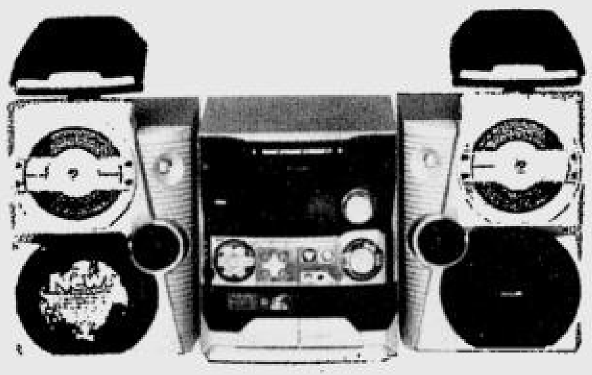
MAGIC CHEF
Clothes Dryer
Lowest price ever
Only $369



WHIRLPOOL 10KG
Washing Machine
Lowest price ever
Only $428



AMERICAN HOME
AW-1050ST 10kg washer
Lowest price ever
Only $405



PHILIPS
VCD Mini Compo
Lowest price ever
Only $292

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LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

PHOTO BY JUN DE LEON

The essential Rajo

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

REVIEW

IT is impressive that at such a young age, designer Rajo Laurel has reached major designer status. His popularity has him designing outfits for celebrities and socialites alike. Though his style is still evolving, Rajo is relentless in his pursuit of his craft. He has recently launched his own makeup line (for the time being confined to lipstick and eye shadow) and has also put together a book called "Rajo 01," which is a brief visual anthology of his last fashion collection of the same title.

THE ESSENTIAL/ P.F2

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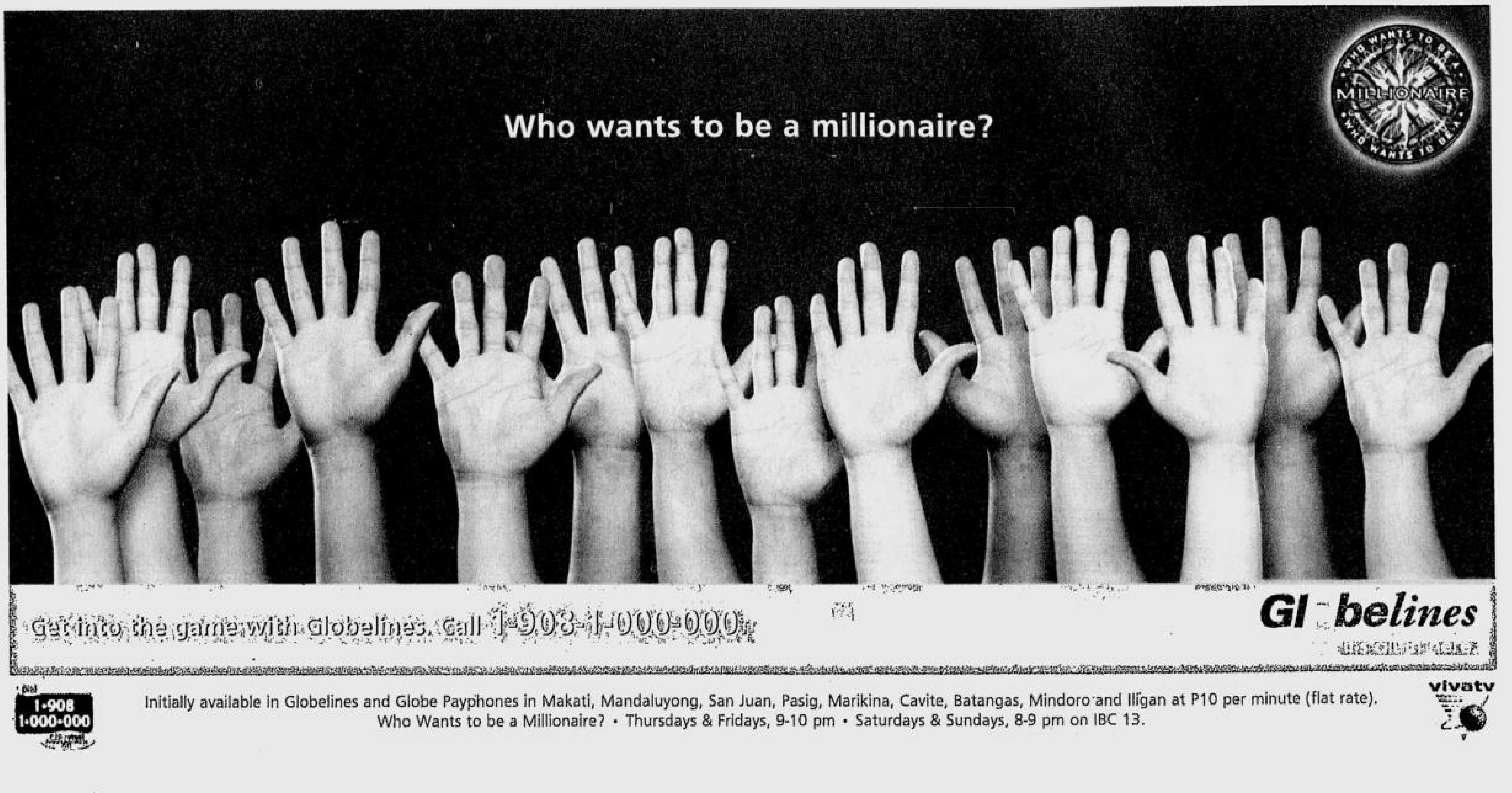

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PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL COMPOSITION BY NEAL OSHIMA

The essential Rajo

Still evolving his style, the young designer has shown an openness to exploring other media, other worlds

From page F1

Lending their talents are photographers Jun de Leon, Neil Oshima, Paolo Raymundo, Ava Lugtu, Neil Lucente and Claudine Sia. Rajo allowed them the creative independence to interpret his clothes. The result is a refreshing visual mix of the designer's clothes as seen from different perspectives.

The book is small, far from what one would expect from a fashion book. The intent was to make it look like Rajo's sketchpad. In fact, interspersed with the text and photographs are little notes made by the designer, such as "I am in love with sleeves!" Rajo's "studies" and sketches are also scattered throughout.

The text is a peek at the designer's insights, which say a lot about his work. However, the silver holographic typeface used is very difficult to read. Apparently, this was the intent because "01" also stands for Optical Illusion with the optical arts used to liberally allow the distortion of what is seen by the naked eye.

Volumes

But who is Rajo Laurel? The foreword by close friend Chris N. Lopez speaks volumes when she mentions their La Salle Alabang days. Both Rajo and Chris were my younger sister's *barkada*, and I remember them hanging around our house quite often.

Even when Rajo was in seventh grade, he already had an innate knack for designing. I can't recall how good they were, but I do know the drawings looked professional at the very least. Rajo was indeed always larger than life, very sociable even with us, the older batch, and very active in the theater activities of the school. (He loves to sing!)

Just this week, I sat in on a mini reunion with Rajo and a few of his close friends to get a glimpse at what motivates this young designer. All successful in their own right, Anton Baretto, Leah Caringal, Bernice Palanca Go, Astrud Crisologo and Anna Borromeo had fun reminiscing, and had a lot to reveal about the real Rajo Laurel.

We had a good laugh remembering some of Rajo's "vintage" designs, which consisted mostly of prom dresses. Rajo said there were lots of pleats and bows—they were very '80s, of course. Rajo would draw his ideas and the girls would take them to their seamstresses to translate. I remember Rajo designing this all-white sarong number for me back when I was in college; I think he was already working for the label Julia then.

Since we were allowed to wear civilian clothes every Friday, I asked them to recall what Rajo's look was. Everyone chorused, "shoulder pads!" Apparently Rajo put these mega shoulder pads on all his shirts. Then he would top them off with cardigans regardless of the weather. He even admitted to transferring his favorite shoulder pads from one shirt to the next.

Big influence

When the subject shifted to his inspiration, Rajo admitted that my best friend Mara Hermano was a big influence. She was a fashion rebel back in high school and Rajo admired that. When she shaved off the sides of her hair, Rajo followed suit and went punk a week later. If she wore orange, so would he. He admitted to even copying the way she would rip her jeans. It reached a point that Anton confronted him about copying Mara. (In a strange twist of fate, Rajo's sister Venisse is now married to Mara's brother Jiggs.)

Listening to these old friends reminisce, one thing is certain—Rajo has forged very deep friendships. He admits that no matter how many new good friends he has made, it's the people who saw you grow up who know you the most. The comfort level is just unparalleled. Of course, there have been quite a number of fights, mostly, Rajo admits, because he can be insensitive, but they are always eventually forgotten.

Explaining why he decided to produce a book, Rajo feels that there is a paradigm shift in his creativity and that the time to try new things is now, while he is still young and brave. He says his ultimate aim is to sell "a lifestyle of discreet luxury."

I asked Rajo if he has ever turned down a client because what she wanted him to design was too outrageous. He said no. I asked if his standards were in any way compromised when attaching his name to something he didn't agree with aesthetically, and he explained that if he made his client happy, that was all that mattered, and oddly enough it made sense.

Being very young, Rajo has yet to reach his peak. He is constantly evolving and aspiring to reach new heights. His willingness to try new media is admirable. He has even ventured into designing corporate wear with Bernice Palanca Go as his partner. Though a bit more toned down, Rajo is still the same effusive kid I used to see hanging around. He approaches his craft with sincerity, and though he has his share of critics, he charges on with the kind of unwavering positive attitude that guarantees success.

I asked his friends, "Back then, did you think that Rajo would become famous?" Their unanimous answer was "yes."

"Rajo 01" is available at Page One

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

Fashion Week to start on April 4

AYALA Center will be the place to go to in April as it hosts Manila's most exciting fashion event, The Philippine Fashion Week 2002.

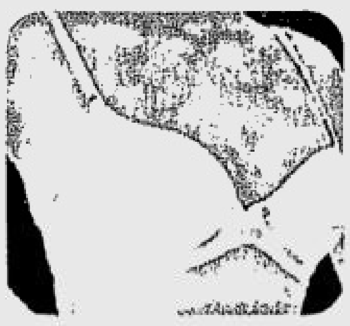
The weeklong series of fashion shows will feature the stylishly hot new collections by international brands and Manila's top fashion designers.

The annual event was conceptualized by Audie Espino and Joey Espino Jr. of Runway Productions as the local version of the highly celebrated fashion weeks held in some of the world's hottest fashion capitals—New York, Milan, London, Paris, Singapore and Australia.

The Philippine Fashion Week 2002 promises to showcase the latest apparel, accessories and cosmetics collections of local and international companies. Manila's foremost couturiers will also be premiering their newest designs. This year's fashion week is expected to be bigger, brighter and bolder. Models from CalCarrie's Int'l. Models Phils. will don this year's trendiest looks.

The 2001 Fashion Week featured EsAc Sydney-Manila, Esprit, Jag, Penshoppe, Oxygen, Speedo, Replay, Kookai, Nafnaf, Sisley, British India, Resort Shop and Pierre Cardin. Manila's top designers like Rajo Laurel, Frederick Peralta, Edgar San Diego, Marden Iglesias, Tonichi Nocom, Efren Ocampo, Mike de la Rosa, Jeanne Goulbourn of Silk Cocoon, Pepsi Herrera, Edwin Tan, Lyle Ibañez and Barge Ramos showed their summer and beach collections.

Avon, a major sponsor, showcased its latest cosmetics products in a makeup demonstration and fashion show featuring top model turned makeup artist Lala Flores.



Uplifting news

WACOAL Air Cool Bra gives the breasts the highest form of support backed with a special design that allows air to flow inside the breasts. The bra's intricate design goes with an air-intake mesh that permits air to flow inside the special channels that are built at the bra's under wire.

The product will be available in the market on March 15 and, on the same day, it will have a grand launching at Dish in Rockwell. The launching will consist of a media presentation in the afternoon and a fashion show directed by Robby Carmona.

Woven blouses return

WOVEN blouses are making a comeback at SM.

Today's blouses are sleek and snappy with zip and pocket accents. Belts give them a fresh, new look.

Pulled together with cinch rings, grosgrain and fabric belts, Velcro closures and simple bows, the new collection of woven blouses is available at the Girls Teens Wear Department of all SM stores.

Go hip and romantic

MISS Selfridge's Spring/Summer 2002 collection is an interesting mix of influences that draw inspiration from the Victorian era, the hip and happening '70s, enchanted forests and rugged streets.

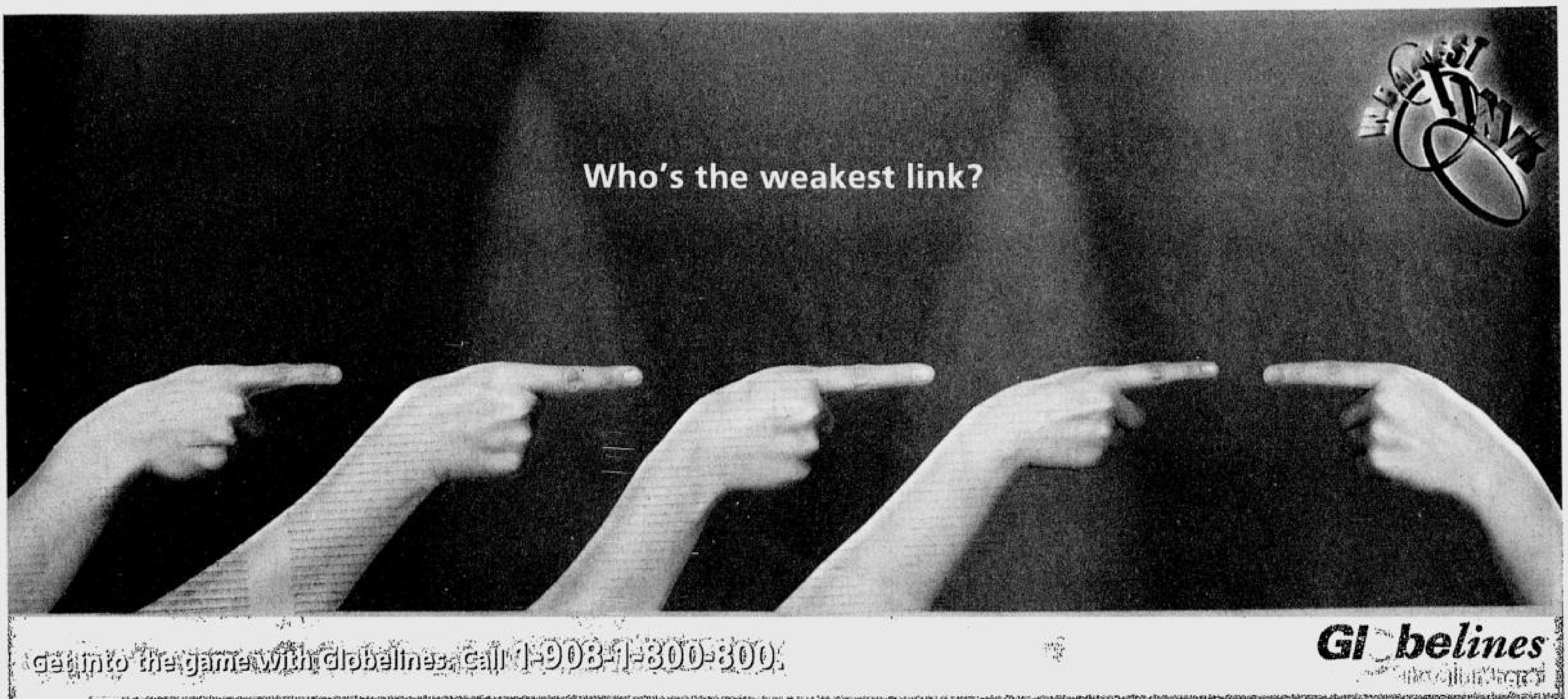
Blouses are decorated with antique florals, ditsy prints and dainty sprig patterns, while cool cheesecloth shirts and Indian-printed skirts evoke hippie trends. Also in the collection are transparent chiffons, ethereal cotton and knee-skimming skirts in soft peach, pale pink and baby blue.

Those who go for an edgier look would love tattoos and graffiti on jersey hoods, denim jackets, jeans and tie-dyed shirts. Rugby shirts make for a sporty look.

Miss Selfridge's Hi-de-Hi, a throwback to the 1950s, includes fitted blazers, shorts and wide-legged cropped cotton trousers, as well as accessories like assorted belts and bags.

Check out Miss Selfridge's latest collection, 2/L Padre Faura Wing, Robinsons Place Manila. Also available are the Spring/

Summer 2002 selections from Topshop and Topman. Opening soon is Topshop at Robinsons Galleria.



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The Weakest Link • Mondays to Wednesdays, 9-10 pm on IBC 13.
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Balinese spa in Metro South

BALI Spa and Wellness Center brings to the Philippines the body treatment and massage that the Indonesian resort island has become known for. Las Piñas' first lady, Imelda Aguilar, graced the opening of the center recently. Bali Spa brings with it the legendary Balinese style of pampering and beauty ritual that includes natural products for skin, hair and body, and calming body exercises set in a tranquil environment to achieve a relaxed state of mind and clarity of thought. Its wide range of services includes body and facial treatment, spa, massage and salon. The spa is located at Interior Gallery Building, 318 Alabang-Zapote Road, Las Piñas City.

Learn to act from the pros

GUINGONA

ACTOR'S Actors Inc. is now accepting applicants to its 2002 Summer Acting Workshop, which will be conducted by top-notch theater talents.

Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, who played the female lead in many musical productions, will handle a class in musical theater.

Michael Williams, who received acclaim recently for his portrayal in "Promises, Promises," will also teach a class in musical theater.

Bart Guingona, the 2001 Aliw Award winner for Best Actor, handles a class for practicing and aspiring professionals.

Musical theater classes will be held at OnStage, Greenbelt, Makati while advance classes will be held at the former Army-Navy Club on Roxas Boulevard. Call AAI at 536-5844 or text (0917) 612-3355.

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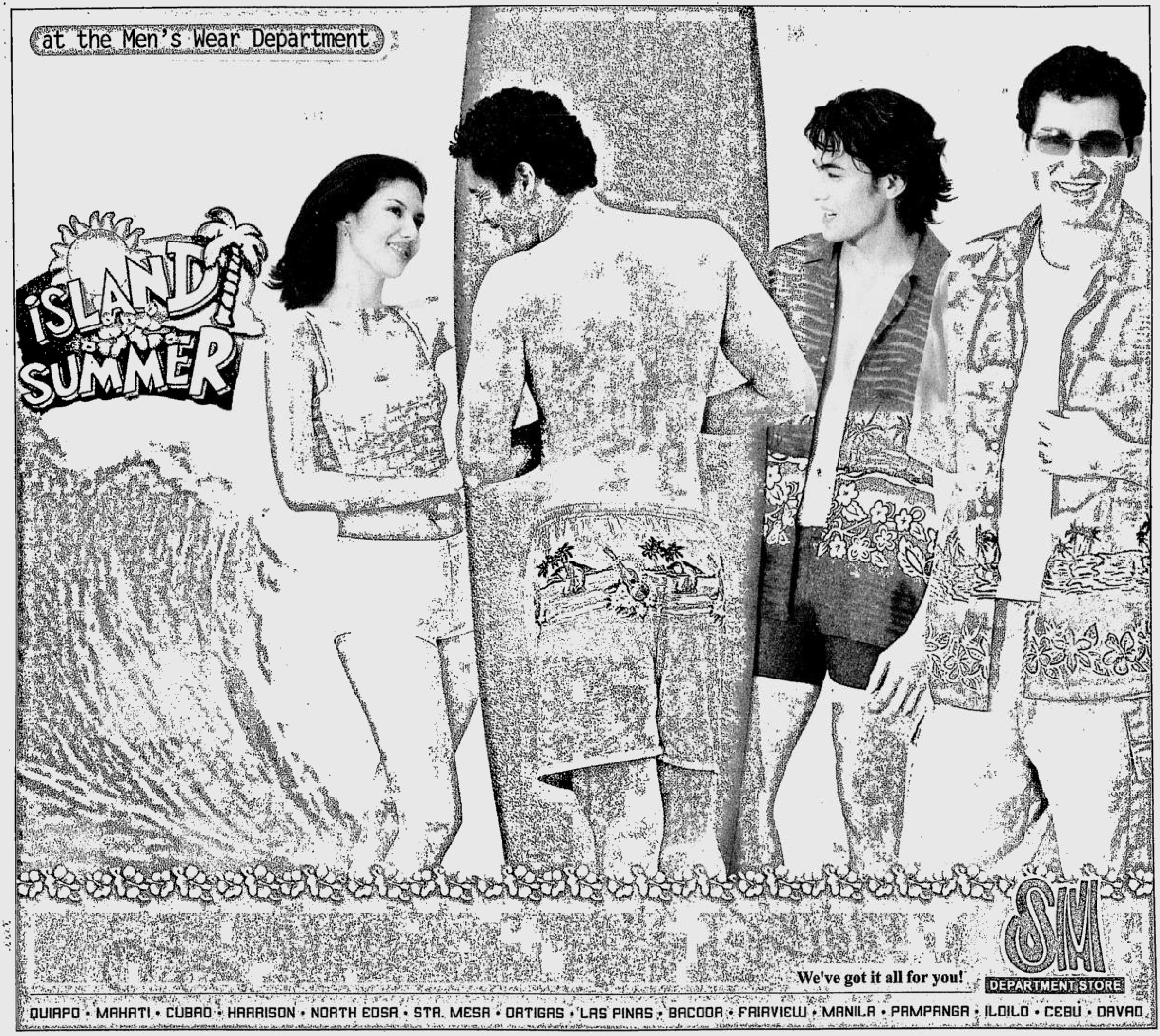
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Women's Month 2002

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

Today, we join the rest of the world in celebrating **Women's Day.** I convey my unremitting acknowledgment to all Filipino women who ensure the welfare of 80 million Filipinos; labor for the economy; and, greater yield to our harvests. Let the fervors of this day be transformed into a broader commitment to advance the lot of our women.

It is also fitting to congratulate the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCFRW) for stewarding the Framework Plan for Woman (FPW), which provides clear directions for government and civil society in removing the remaining barriers to women's advancement. This plan embodies the three priority thrusts of my administration: upholding human rights of women; promoting women's economic empowerment; and ensuring their active role in good governance. But the work does not end here. Remaining in alliance with the women's movement, the NCRFW will ensure that all government agencies implement the FPW.

Women's Day enjoins all of us to redress the systematic violation of women's rights; include women in decision-making of government and the private sector; and, create a favorable advancement for women in business and industry. True development is achieved only with peace and equality, and effected only with genuine collaboration.

KAISA KA sa pagtataguyod ng karapatan at pagsulong ng kapakanan ng mga kababaihan.

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE ROLE OF FILIPINO WOMEN

MESSAGE

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, officers and staff of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to all my co-Filipino women as we celebrate International Women's Day today.

The world rejoices and celebrates the progress made in advancing the equality and empowerment of women, mindful of the obstacles and barriers that women still face in the Philippines and many other countries.

The government's priority now is addressing three strategic areas of concern -- Women's Human Rights; Women's Economic Empowerment; and their role in Gender-Responsive Governance. These thrusts will be the main focus of the Framework Plan for Women, which will be launched on the occassion of the International Women's Day on March 8 at the Philippine Sports Arena.

We call on all concerned sectors to work hand-in-hand with the government and the women's movement to more effectively address and act on the issues that impede women's human rights and their full participation as equal partners in development. And as the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan once said, "the empowerment of women is the empowerment of humanity."

Muli, isang mainit na pagbati sa lahat ng kababaihang Pilipino tungo sa isang lipunang may pagkakapantay-pantay at walang diskriminasyon.

AURORA JAVATE-DE DIOS
NCRFW CHAIRPERSON

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE ROLE OF FILIPINO WOMEN

MESSAGE

Isang mainit at malugod na pagbati ngayong Araw ng Kababaihan ang hatid sa inyo ng National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women!

Women all over the world are celebrating today their achievements not only for themselves but for their societies. Filipino women have come a long way, from acquiring suffrage to becoming presidents. Our women now are working both for their families and the economy. Violence against women is emphatically being recognized in the judicial system as an outright violation of human rights.

More will be done with the Framework Plan for Women. The next three years will see a conscious effort from the government to improve women's lives across the areas of human rights, economic empowerment and gender-responsive governance.

We invite everyone to join us in today's celebration of International Women's Day. Together, let us forge support for the advancement of Filipino women!

Myrna T. Yao
MYRNA T. YAO
NCRFW COMMISSIONER AND
CHAIRPERSON OF WOMEN'S MONTH 2002 COMMITTEE

JOHNSON & JOHNSON
PHILIPPINES, INC.

MESSAGE

Today, as we celebrate International Women's day, we mark yet another milestone in the advancement of the well-being of women all over the world.

But more than being just a day of celebration, it is also a day of *real hope and action* for Filipino women as the NCRFW launches the Framework Plan for Women. This plan is a concrete step towards the improvement of the lives of Filipinas through programs that effectively respond to the critical women's issues such as women's rights, economic empowerment, and gender equality.

Johnson & Johnson is extremely grateful for the privilege of being a partner in this project to help uplift the lives of Filipino women. We are committed to supporting the continuous advancement of the Filipino women in key programs such as the Women's School Program, and the Post Partum Care Program, together with key government associations.

Binabati ng Johnson & Johnson ang lahat ng kababaihang Pilipino sa araw na ito. Sumusuporta ang Johnson & Johnson sa pagtataguyod ng inyong kalusugan and kapakanan. Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

CRESCENCIANO D. TOLEDO
JOHNSON & JOHNSON GENERAL MANAGER

Women's Day Today!
KAISA KA

By: Ria Orca

THE NATIONAL Commission on the Role of Filipino (NCRFW) celebrates Women's Day today with about 7,000 women representing government agencies, LGUs, NGOs, academe and civil society at the Philippine Sports Arena (formerly the ULTRA).

This year's theme, ***KArapatan ay ISulong tungo sa mga Adhikain ng KAbabaihan or KAISA KA,*** resounds the solidarity among these women as they commit to push for women's empowerment and gender equality.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will join the morning activities to launch the Framework Plan for Women, which carries the priorities of her administration: upholding women's human rights; promoting women's economic empowerment; and ensuring their active role in good governance.

"Our work with the Framework Plan for Women does not end in crafting the document. President Arroyo made it clear to us that we should closely monitor agencies on its implementation. In tune with KAISA KA, plan action is a collective effort to include not just government agencies but NGOs and the rest of civil society as well," says NCRFW Chair Aurora Javate-de Dios.

NCRFW

The NCRFW, in partnership with the Department of Education, will also hold a lunch for President Arroyo and several women leaders to renew partnerships and discuss pressing women's issues such as violence against women, economic marginalization, poverty, limited participation in decision-making, among others. She will also symbolically sign the Women's Day mural that depicts the spirit of the Framework Plan for Women. "The president's participation in today's event affirms that women's concerns will not take a sidestep in her term," says de Dios.

The NCRFW will also come out with the State of Filipino Women Report 2001. Consolidated from the data of government and women NGOs, the report will become the official situationer on Filipino women. "Sometimes it is very hard to convince other people that Filipino women are in a disadvantaged, if not subordinate, position compared to their male counterparts. This report argues inequality between women and men with hard data," said de Dios.

The afternoon will feature more festive activities such as raffle, and song and dance numbers. Key government officials, diplomats and celebrities have also been invited to convey their greetings to Filipino women. There will be information booths featuring programs and services of government agencies and NGOs.

KAISA KA sa Framework Plan for Women!

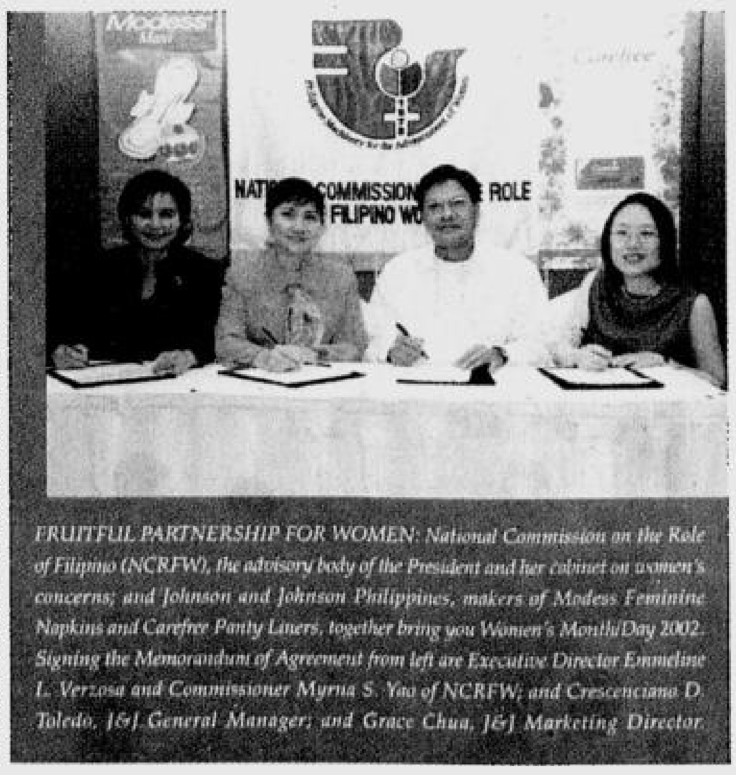
The *Framework Plan for Women* or *FPW* embodies the priorities of the Macapagal-Arroyo Administration for Filipino women for 2001-2004. Apart from sustainable, it envisions development as equitable, free from violence, respectful of human rights, supportive of self-determination, participatory and empowering.

FPW is about women's rights, resources and voice. In the next three years, government will partner with women and the rest of civil society in:

Ensuring women's economic empowerment via
- greater access to capital, market, training, information, technology and technical assistance
- just wages and benefits
- equal opportunities for women in male-dominated industries
- women-friendly and safe working conditions
- protection from negative effects of globalization through safety-nets

Protecting and fulfilling women's human rights through
- strengthened justice delivery on violence against women
- provision of rehabilitative and protective services to women victims and survivors of abuse and exploitation
- adoption of policy and legislative measures to eliminate gender discrimination in economic, socio-cultural and political environments
- information and education on women's rights
- removal of gender-bias in education
- lowering the incidence of women's preventable diseases
- asset reform for women, including land and affordable housing
- balanced and non-sexist portrayal of women in media

Promoting gender-responsive governance through
- local machineries on women
- equal representation of women in decision-making positions
- proper utilization of the GAD Budget
- capacitating women as watchdogs against graft and corruption



FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIP FOR WOMEN: National Commission on the Role of Filipino (NCRFW), the advisory body of the President and her cabinet on women's concerns; and Johnson and Johnson Philippines, makers of Modess Feminine Napkins and Carefree Panty Liners, together bring you Women's Month/Day 2002. Signing the Memorandum of Agreement from left are Executive Director Emmeline L. Verzosa and Commissioner Myrna S. Yao of NCRFW; and Crescenciano D. Toledo, J&J General Manager; and Grace Chua, J&J Marketing Director.

NCRFW initiatives with the international community

- **Canadian International Development Agency** - NCRFW is currently mainstreaming Gender and Development in several line departments, oversight agencies and local government units. For over 10 years now, the NCRFW has been developing tools and systems for gender-responsive planning, programming, implementation and monitoring with the aim of increasing the efficiency and widening the positive impact of government interventions for women and men.
- **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund** - In partnership with the UNICEF, NCRFW is conducting an information campaign to promote women's rights as embodied in the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women or CEDAW. NCRFW and UNICEF are also preparing for nationwide consultations for the drafting of Philippine country reports on government actions in fulfillment of CEDAW.
- **United Nations Development Program** - NCRFW has partnered with the UNDP in advancing women's empowerment through good governance. Through this gender and governance facility; manuals, training modules and other mechanisms are being developed to concretize the goals of the Framework Plan for Women at the local level.
- **Australian Agency for International Development** - NCRFW ensures the implementation of the GAD Budget by all government entities. Through funding assistance from AusAID, NCRFW will embark on an extensive capacity-building program for the effective and participatory monitoring of the GAD Budget.
- **United Nations Development Fund for Women** - UNIFEM assists the NCRFW in reviewing the current budgeting system and processes to situate the GAD Budget within these. This project includes installation of performance audit and accountability mechanisms as safeguards of GAD Budget utilization.

National Women's Day Celebration
Philippine Sports Arena (ULTRA)
08 March 2002
PROGRAMME

1. National Women's Walk
   Assembly time: 5:30 - 6:00 am
   Walk from EDSA to ULTRA: 6:00-7:00 am
   Arrival at the ULTRA: 7:00-7:30 am
   Parade of Colors 7:30-8:30 am
2. Ceremonial ribbon-cutting for the opening of info desks
   7:30-8:00 am
   Chair Aurora de Dios and Commissioner Myrna Yao will jointly cut the ribbon
3. Inter-faith invocation to be lead by the NCRFW, OMA, NCIP, and NYC
   8:15-8:30 am
4. National anthem to be led by the NSO Chorale
   8:30-9:00 am
5. Opening Remarks by NCRFW Commissioner Isabelita Sy-Palanca
   9:00-9:15 am
6. Ulat ng Kababaihan by NCRFW Chairperson Aurora Javate-de Dios
   9:15-9:30 am
7. Special numbers by the Department of Energy Chorale and Nazareth Growth Home Singing Group
   9:30-9:55 am
8. 1st raffle draw
   9:55-10:05 am
9. Special Messages from Gender Advocates
   NCRFW Commissioner Germelyn Esparago
   Ms. Irene Santiago, Mindanao Commission on Women
   10:05 - 10:25 am
10. Intermission numbers by the Philippine Sports Commission and Dr. Lydia Buendia
   10:25-10:35 am
11. Inspirational messages
   Chairperson Karina C. David, Civil Service Commission
   Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Department of Labor and Employment
   10:35-10:50 am
12. 2nd raffle draw
   10:50-11:10 pm
13. Launching of the Framework Plan for Women (FPW) with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
   11:10 am - 12:00 noon
   Video clip presentation
   Unveiling and signing of creative art expression by GMA
   Hand-over of NCRFW Chairperson Aurora Javate-de Dios of FPW to GMA
   Photo opportunity
14. Lunch break
   12:00 noon - 1:30 pm
15. Special numbers by Tahanang Walang Hagdanan & Women's Federation for World Peace
   1:30-1:50 pm
16. United Nations as Partner in Gender Mainstreaming
   1:50-2:10 pm
17. Grand raffle draw
   2:10-2:40 pm
18. Ritual for Unity
   2:50-3:00 pm
19. Afternoon Activities
   3:00 pm - onwards
   Showcasing of info-booths
   Women's Bazaar
   Display of Women's Month calendar of activities

Host: Ms. Rini Kwek

More and more women are now taking action.

DETAILS ON PAGE 3

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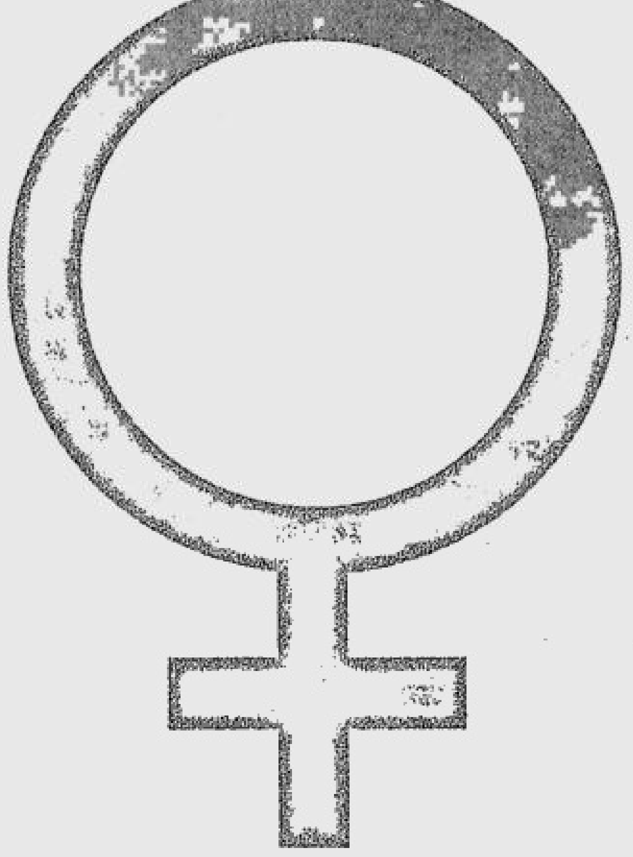
Fearless and Female

Johnson & Johnson



Modess & Carefree: Advancing Women's Healthcare

In no other time in history have women been faced with so many choices and opportunities as well as roles and responsibilities. In giving so much of themselves to their loved ones, their jobs, their causes and their communities, women often find that they have less time and energy to take care of themselves. Yet in order for women to be truly empowered, their personal needs must be nurtured first.

No one understands this better than Modess and Carefree. In their commitment to provide women with the best in terms of healthcare needs, both brands have developed several projects designed to reach out to women during any of their lifestages --- from teen, to womanhood, to motherhood.

Modess and Carefree's Projects and Programs for Women:

- The continuous development of innovative products: New Modess Maxi, All New Carefree Panty Liners and Carefree G-string Panty Liners
- A School-based Women's Health Program, developed in partnership with the Department of Education, is now on its second year
- A Post Partum and Neonatal Care Program, developed in collaboration with the Perinatal Association of the Philippines, Inc., has been ongoing since 1988
- A global website --- www.itsmybody.com --- provides young girls and women a wealth of information on their body and feminine heathcare

Places to go, things to do.

International Women's Day

8
- **NCRFW-sponsored Women's Day Celebration at ULTRA**
- **TIANGGE**
  NCRFW, DTI, NCWP, TEDSA & BSP
- **Film Showing (March 8-12)**
  UPCWS
- **Poster Exhibit & Book Sale (March 8-11)**
  UP Manila-PGH
- **Gender and Human Rights Training for Lawyers in the Bicol Region (March 8-9)**
  Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panlegal (SANLIGAN)
- **Forum on Health, Life and Women**
  FFW Women's Network (FWN)
- **Photo Exhibit on Women in Art at Work**
  DOT
- **Forum on Women Issues**
  UP Manila Pi Sigma Delta Sorority
- **Mindanao Women Speak Out!**
  Mindanao Commission on Women
- **Mindanao Women & Peace**
  Mindanao Commission on Women, Xavier University & Women's Forum 10
- **Book launching:**
  Research on Abused Women Migrant Workers
  Delivery of Justice to Disadvantaged Women (DAW) Coalition
- **Forum on Rape**
  Women's Crisis Center

9
- **Free Legal Cousellling (March 9,16,23 and 30)**
  Women Lawyer's Association of the Philippines, Inc. (WLAP)
- **"Women, Security Issues & Peace Initiatives"**
  A symposium
  Women's Rights Movement of the Philippines.YWCA, Manila Women's Club & Philippine Women's Christian Temperance Union

10
- **"Musika Klasika Filipino" (An all-female Japanese rondalla based in Narra, Japan, RONDALLA NIJI)**
  DOT

11
- **Press Conference**
  DOH
- **Art Lecture Demonstration on Wood Sculpture by Sandra Torrijos**
  UP Manila-PGH
- **Women Artists Festival (March 11-23)**
  NCRFW

12
- **Forum on the Law of Annulment and Legal Separation**
  DENR
- **Sosyalan sa Niyogan (Cooking Demo)**
  WINTEX & UCWS

13
- **Symposium on Women's Legal Rights**
  PCARRD, CIRCA, UPLAB, GPRD, UPOU& SCARRDEC

14
- **Distance Learning Seminar for East-Asia and the Pacific -- Mother to Child Transmission of HIV AIDS**
  UNAIDS
- **Book launching**
  Women's Feature Service
- **WIN Annual Congress on the Framowork Plan for Women (March 14-16)**
  Women in Nation-building

15
- **UGNAYANG PAMBANSA Televised Press Con**
  PIA & NCRFW
- **Training on Waste Management**
  DAR
- **Forum on Women and the Barangay Elections**
  Mindanao Commission on Women

16
- **Symposium on Women's Rights**
  SWAPI
- **Free legal counselling and medical mission (March 16 & 17)**
  NCRFW, DOH, NAPOLCOM & DOJ

17
- **"Cinderella" (by the Muntinlupa Dance Co.)**
  DOT

18
- **Women and Media Forum**
  NCRFW & PIA
- **Consultation on the Implementation of the FPW in LGUs (March 18-20)**
  NCRFW
- **Medical mission and trade fair**
  DAR
- **Lecture on "How to detect fake titles"**
  DENR
- **Kababaihan Laban sa Korupsyon (Women Against Graft)**
  CSC
- **Forum on Divorce**
  Mindanao Commission on Women
- **Tri-media presentation/symposium on "Kababaihan, Kapayapaan, Kabayanihan"**
  Philippine Association of University Women

19
- **Consultation Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming among Women Workers/Unionists and Women Managers/Entrepreneurs**
  NCRFW
- **Symposium on Entrepreneurial Activities of Women in the Region**
  DAR
- **Training on Counselling Techniques for Adolescents**
  PUP Peer Counselors Association
- **Display and sale of livelihood products (March 19-23)**
  DAR

20
- **Women's Health On-line**
  NCRFW & DOCTORGEORGE.COM
- **Launching of Philippine Livelihood Marketing Corporation (PHILMACO)**
  Filipino-Chinese Federation of Business and Professional Women of the Philippines (Fil-Chi)

20
- **National Consultation Workshop to Draft a National Program on Empowering Women through Science and Technology**
  JOWIST
- **Forum on Economic Rights of Women through Micro-Finance**
  DAR
- **Carefree & Johnson's pH 5.5 office program: "All About Women" Fresh Ideas for Today's Living**
  Johnson & Johnson and DOF
- **Forum on Women in Governance**
  DOT
- **Lecture on Cancer and Women**
  Commission on Human Rights-Forensic Office
- **Book sale (up to 50%discount)**
  UPCWS
- **Launching of books and IEC materials on Gender and Development and reproductive health (March 20 & 28)**
  UPCWS & Ford Foundation
- **Lecture: Cancer in Women**
  Philippine Cancer Society

21
- **Recognition of Women in Economic Empowerment, Human Rights and Good Governance**
  NCWP

22
- **Conduct of pap smear and breast examination for women employees**
  Philippine Cancer Society
- **Orientation on the Use of Maps and GIS Technology for GAD Concerns of LGUs**
  DENR
- **Pap smear**
  Commission on Human Rights-Forensic Office

23
- **LIKHA-LAYA (closing of Women Artists Festival & live concert at El Pueblo, Ortigas)**
  NCRFW
- **Women's Congress:**
  Women's Role in Promoting A Clean Environment
  Federation of Women Civic Organization of QC (FWCO)

24
- **UP Guitar Orchestra's Tribute to Women**
  DOT
- **Wheelaton for Women 2002**
  Tahanang Walang Hagdanan

25
- **Women in Science & Technology Week (March 25-27)**
  APPROTECH ASIA

28
- **Launching of RH in the workplace**
  Development Action for Women in TUCP (DAWN-TUCP)
- **Launching campaign of ILO Convention 183**
  Development Action for Women in TUCP (DAWN-TUCP)

1-31
- **Photo exhibit of Women officials & gender-related infra projects -- "Kababaihan sa DPWH Kaisa Laban sa Katiwalian"**
  DPWH

For the complete list of Women's Month 2002 activities, please visit the NCRFW website at www.ncrfw.gov.ph or contact the secretariat's office at tel.nos. 735-49-55, 735-32-50 or 735-18-64.

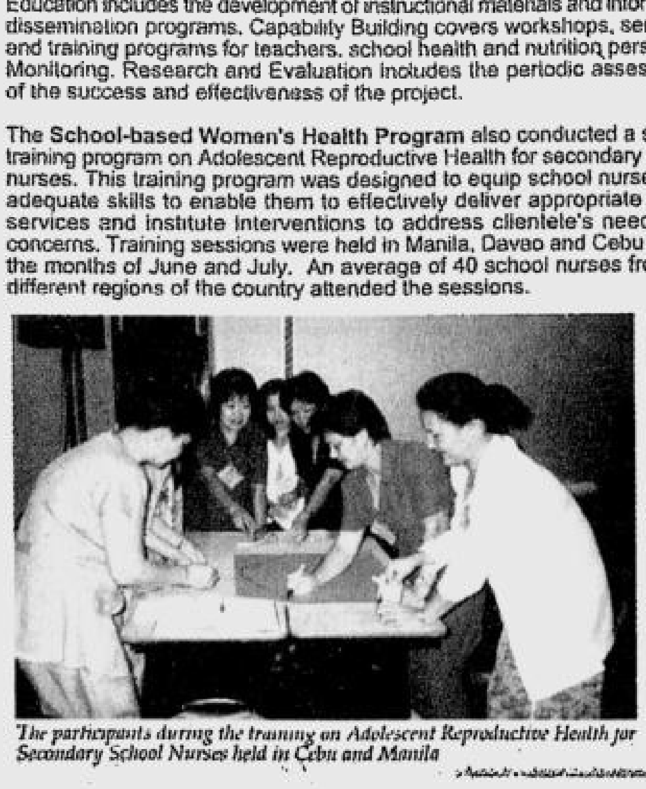
DepEd and Johnson & Johnson Mark Another Year of Advancing Women's Healthcare

Advancing the cause of women's health is a significant part in the empowerment of women. And because with education comes empowerment, schools play an important role in guiding and helping women become healthy and productive individuals.

This 2002, the Department of Education, in partnership with Johnson & Johnson Philippines, mark the second year of the **School-based Women's Health Program**, an extensive education program which aims to improve the health status of female students, teachers and non-teaching personnel.

Launched in March 2000 via the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between then DECS and Johnson & Johnson, the program has four components: Health and Nutrition Service Delivery, Information and Education, Capability Building, and Monitoring, Research and Evaluation. Health and Nutrition Service Delivery involves treatment, consultation, counselling, feeding and treatment of emergency cases. Information and Education includes the development of instructional materials and information dissemination programs. Capability Building covers workshops, seminars and training programs for teachers, school health and nutrition personnel. Monitoring, Research and Evaluation includes the periodic assessment of the success and effectiveness of the project.

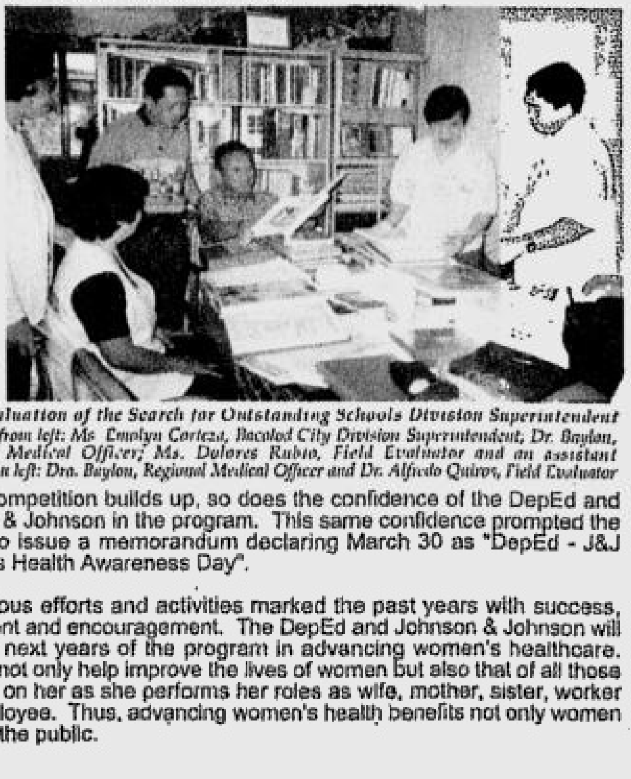
The School-based Women's Health Program also conducted a special training program on Adolescent Reproductive Health for secondary school nurses. This training program was designed to equip school nurses with adequate skills to enable them to effectively deliver appropriate health services and institute interventions to address clientele's needs and concerns. Training sessions were held in Manila, Davao and Cebu during the months of June and July. An average of 40 school nurses from the different regions of the country attended the sessions.



The participants during the training on Adolescent Reproductive Health for Secondary School Nurses held in Cebu and Manila

The program also provides instructional materials, consisting of a source book and lesson plans for elementary and secondary school teachers. These have been reviewed and finalized to include the reactions, necessary revisions, and comments of teachers during the try-out period. These materials are used by the teachers as guides in educating female students about healthcare topics, practices and issues. A workshop was held in August participated in by writers representing the elementary and secondary levels to formalize implementing guides on the use of the materials.

The Search for Schools Division Superintendents with Best Initiatives on Women's Health Promotion, an important element of the **School-based Women's Health Program**, is currently ongoing. A competition that aims to promote a high level of awareness on the importance of women's health, it aims to strengthen the commitment of the schools in the effective implementation of strategies addressing the needs and concerns of women. A field evaluation is ongoing in order to validate the accomplishments and performance of each regional winner. The search covers all DepEd Schools Division Superintendents in the country. Three winners will be chosen from among the fourteen regional nominees. Cash prizes and trip packages await the deserving winners.



Field evaluation of the Search for Outstanding Schools Division Superintendent Standing from left: Ms. Emolyn Corteza, Bacolod City Division Superintendent; Dr. Baylan, Regional Medical Officer; Ms. Dolores Rubio, Field Evaluator and an assistant Seated from left: Dra. Baylon, Regional Medical Officer and Dr. Alfredo Quiros, Field Evaluator

As the competition builds up, so does the confidence of the DepEd and Johnson & Johnson in the program. This same confidence prompted the DepEd to issue a memorandum declaring March 30 as "DepEd - J&J Women's Health Awareness Day".

The various efforts and activities marked the past years with success, excitement and encouragement. The DepEd and Johnson & Johnson will lead the next years of the program in advancing women's healthcare. This will not only help improve the lives of women but also that of all those who rely on her as she performs her roles as wife, mother, sister, worker and employee. Thus, advancing women's health benefits not only women but also the public.

PAP, Inc. and Johnson & Johnson: Caring for New Mothers and Newborns

The Perinatal Association of the Philippines, Inc., (PAP, Inc.) links obstetricians, pediatricians, midwives and maternal health nurses in the promotion of maternal and neonatal care.

In 1988, through the leadership of **Aretas P. Singson-Alday, MD.,** PAP Inc. fostered a collaborative effort with **Johnson & Johnson, Inc.,** in embarking on a post partum and neonatal care program. It initially focused on the post partum period, the six week period between childbirth and recovery from pregnancy. During this time, the new mother experiences physical and psychological changes at an extraordinary pace, and often the entire family is swept up in the changes that surrounds the adjustment period. The PAP, Inc., started to develop programs that would help health care providers in addressing issues related to the post partum period. The program emphasizes on what to watch out for during this sensitive period so that mothers do not neglect their physical and emotional health while caring for their newborn as well.

In 1999, **Rebecca M. Ramos, MD.,** then president of the PAP, Inc., stressed the inclusion of educating mothers-to-be on feminine hygiene by tapping the female adolescents to help them understand better the changes one goes through and prepares them for motherhood. Thus, the PAP, Inc. endorsed the SANPREP program. The assumption of **Emilio A. Hernandez, Jr., MD.,** as president of the PAP, Inc. in 2000 led to the further development of teaching materials for the program. This was made possible through the efforts of **Ruth V. Gutierrez, MD., Sheila D. Masangcay, MD.,** and **Jose B. Salazar, MD.,** members of the Committee on Continuing Medical Education of the PAP, Inc., in developing the flip charts on post partum period, namely, **"Your Body's Recovery", "Your Emotional Well Being", "Breastfeeding", "The Breast"** and **"Care of the Newborn".**

In 2001, PAP Inc., and Johnson & Johnson intensified the post partum program by conducting workshops for maternal and child health care providers. **Ruth V. Gutierrez, MD.,** PAP Inc., 2001 president, launched **"Ang PAP, Inc. at ang Kumadrona"** series of workshops. This was held nationwide to promote and strengthen the objectives fostered together by the PAP, Inc. and Johnson & Johnson in promoting post partum and newborn care. The other efforts of **Susan Pelea-Nagtalon, MD,** and **Cecil Banca-Santos, RM.,** led to the innovation of the workshops by introducing the modified problem-based learning approach.

This year, the PAP, Inc. and Johnson & Johnson will lead in the promotion of post partum and newborn care. **Ma. Luisa Peralta, MD.** PAP, Inc., current president will launch the program **"Ang PAP, Inc., at ang Tagapangalaga ng Ina at Sanggol,"** to ensure that proper maternal and newborn care is given to new mothers and their babies.

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Fearless and Female

Johnson & Johnson

A person who still thinks that "female is the weaker sex" must have been born yesterday.

For sure, you have seen these scenes...

The whole of Luzon is being hit by a very strong typhoon. Along Roxas Boulevard, coconut trees take a bow as if worshipping the mighty wind. In the sky, the birds are suddenly replaced by flying roofs. But then, amidst the chaos created by Typhoon Iliang, a woman brings her courage and creativity to the test. She ties herself to a concrete electric pole to avoid being carried away by the destructive wind. Her goal: to deliver the news on one of the biggest calamities the country has ever experienced. Meanwhile, down south, another brave soul is bringing medical help to the people in the far-flung communities up in the mountains of the war-torn province. Danger is lurking in every corner, but the dedication to profession and courage prevail. Well, that brave and heroic soul belongs to, again...a woman.

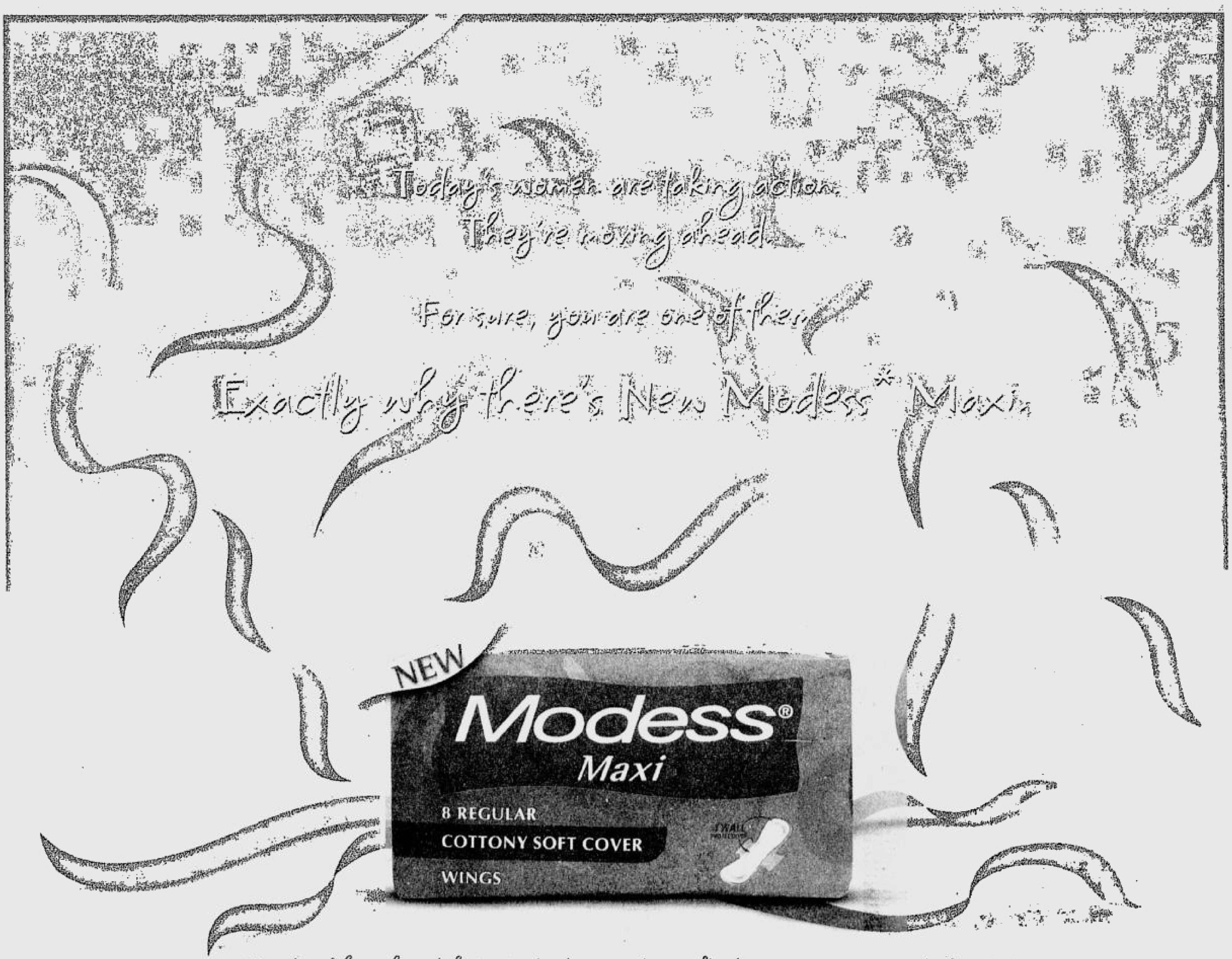
Familiar scenes, right? Well, it's so good to note that some of the most daring news coverage ever done on national television and many of the laudable acts of heroism have been done by women. It's glaring proof that today's women are becoming more and more active. Not only in broadcast journalism and the medical profession, but in other fields as well. Finally, there's no more stereotypical roles for women. No more "female is the weaker sex" thinking.

Many women have finally reached where they want to be. Just try to look at your company's management plantilla. How many women are there in the excom? In the board of directors? How many women are lady senators and congresswomen? How many women joined the Edsa People Power to voice out their opinions? Who's giving you the late-breaking and most important news for the day? Who's holding the highest position in the government at present? The passion and dedication of these women inspire others. That's why more and more women are now taking action. And they're moving ahead fast! The world has finally come to realize that it pays to recognize the needs and the rights of all women.

According to a recent study conducted among young professionals, today's women consider career as a very important factor in their lives. In fact, their decision to settle down and start their own families greatly depend on the stability of their jobs. The value of helping their parents financially and the "it's my turn" thinking are still there. Young women who have just started their careers see their female bosses who are already successful as their source of inspiration and influence. It is clear in their minds though that success is really up to them; that to "get there," they need perseverance, hard work and self-reliance. They also know that with the challenges of the real world and the demands of their jobs, mobility will be a great part of their everyday lives.

Today, the whole world gives importance to the new roles women play in the modern society. One proof is the fact that more and more products have been developed and designed according to today's women's active lifestyle. One such product is New Modess Maxi. It has a breakthrough anti-leak core that actively draws and traps fluid in, giving women active leak protection like they've never had before. So they can take action and do what they've got to do. But Modess doesn't stop there. Being the leader in sanitary protection. Modess is at the forefront in advancing women's healthcare.Through its various projects, Modess is able to reach out to women and educate them on their healthcare needs during any of their lifestages --- from teen to womanhood, then on to motherhood.

Women have indeed come a long, long way. They've been fighting for freedom. They've been fighting for their rights. Today, they continue taking action, moving ahead and doing what they've got to do. And if there's someone who still thinks that "female is the weaker sex," that person must have been born yesterday.


Today's women are taking action.
They're moving ahead.
For sure, you are one of them.
Exactly why there's New Modess* Maxi.
NEW
Modess®
Maxi
8 REGULAR
COTTONY SOFT COVER
WINGS

It's a breakthrough pad that actively draws and traps fluid in, giving you active leak protection like you've never had before. So you can take action and do what you've got to do.

New Modess* Maxi..

Lets you do what you've got to do.

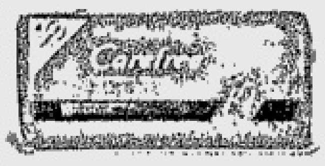
Johnson & Johnson

Fearless and Female

Johnson & Johnson

Guess Who's Keeping Every Woman's Day Fresh?

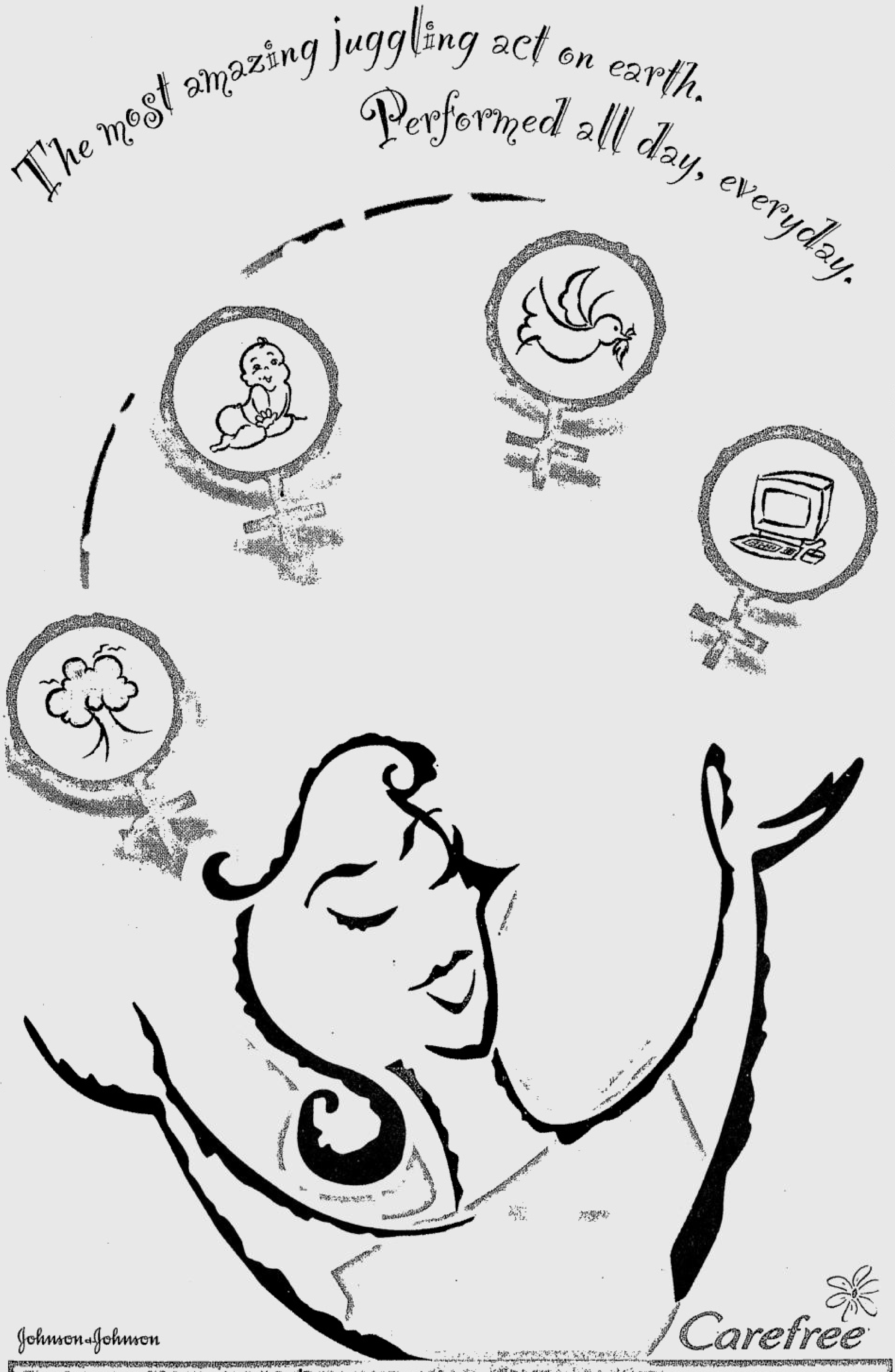
It doesn't matter whether she's young or old, an employer or an employee, or whether she's running a household or running a country — a woman simply has so much to do. It's a wonder how she manages to do it. All of it. Everyday.



But while she may spend her day busy achieving, giving and dreaming, a woman will tell you that looking and feeling fresh is still important. She wants to feel totally fresh! And that comes from knowing she's fresh not only outwardly, but also where it matters most, her intimate area. So now Carefree has come up with something to keep women totally fresh all day, everyday — All New Carefree Panty Liners!

Carefree's latest innovation has Active Freshening Beads to keep women fresh and fragrant where freshness matters most. Its new shape fits women's bodies more naturally, making it more comfortable to use everyday. All New Carefree Panty Liners also provides better protection against everyday wetness.

So now, women can stay totally fresh and fragrant while doing anything and everything. They can handle any challenge the day brings — and still look good and feel great!


The most amazing juggling act on earth.
Performed all day, everyday.

Johnson & Johnson

Carefree

[illegible]

That fresh, tiny underthing... The G-string!

Active, adventurous and confident. Today's women are not afraid to try anything! And that includes the latest in fashion - - the G-string panty. Perfect for clothes that are sheer, slinky or skintight, wearing a G-string banishes unsightly panty lines.

But while wearing a G-string panty keeps women looking smart and stylish, it's still important for them to feel fresh and comfortable. However, today's panty liners are just not made for G-strings. They're designed for regular panties, too wide for the narrow G-string!

Good thing Carefree keeps up with today's women with New Carefree G-string Panty Liners! It's the only panty liner made for the G-string. So women can feel fresh and comfortable no matter what kind of underwear they got

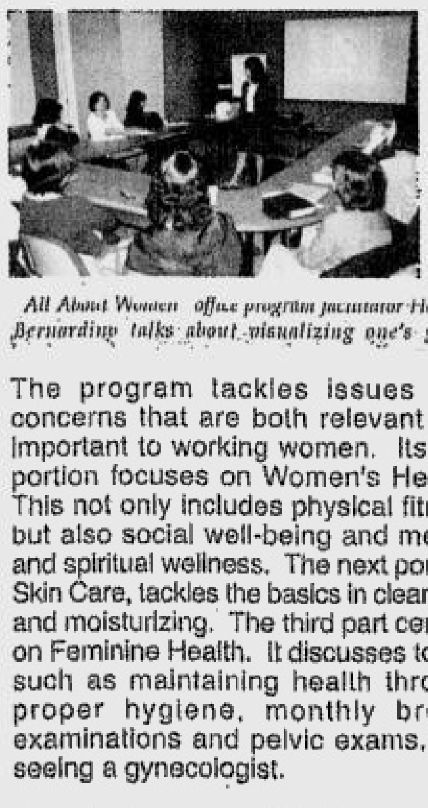
Designed with a narrower end to follow the shape of the G-string panty, its unique tapered shape fits your G-string perfectly. It's the only one with wings to keep it firmly in place New Carefree G-string Panty Liners also has an over-all adhesive backing for a secure hold while a soft, cushiony cover provides extra comfort. It's got such a discrete and comfortable fit, you won't even know it's there. Thanks to Carefree, today's women stay fresh, fashionable and fearless!

Staying Carefree on the Job

Close the deal, get the promotion, bring home the bacon. It used to be the man's job But not anymore. Ever since women have joined the workforce, they've proven that they are just as driven, just as capable and just as efficient. But because they often have to manage households, run errands and raise children as well, it doesn't come as a surprise that they end up twice as stressed.

In trying to juggle so many responsibilities, women often neglect themselves, forgetting that it is only by keeping their bodies healthy and their spirits strong that they can get the most out of life. With more and more women finding themselves in this situation, Johnson & Johnson recognizes working women's need for a guide towards wholistic wellness.

So in an effort to help career women balance the urgent demands of work without sacrificing their health, Carefree and Johnson's pH5.5 have developed and are currently conducting an office program entitled ***"All About Women: Fresh Ideas for Today's Living."*** Ongoing for the past two years, it includes a multimedia presentation followed by a discussion facilitated by a program speaker



All About Women office program facilitator Hannah Bernardino talks about visualizing one's goals.

The program tackles issues and concerns that are both relevant and important to working women. Its first portion focuses on Women's Health. This not only includes physical fitness but also social well-being and mental and spiritual wellness. The next portion, Skin Care, tackles the basics in cleansing and moisturizing. The third part centers on Feminine Health. It discusses topics such as maintaining health through proper hygiene, monthly breast examinations and pelvic exams, and seeing a gynecologist.

With Johnson & Johnson's office program, women are better equipped to meet the demands of the workplace while keeping in balance being in tune with themselves, healthy physically and stress-free emotionally. Helping women achieve wholistic wellness may be a tough order, but Carefree and Johnson's pH5.5 get the job done.